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Japan

House of Representatives General Elections Held

Results Not To Affect U.S. Talks

OW1907102993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0954 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The Liberal Democratic Party's failure to capture a majority in the lower house of the Diet in Sunday's [18 July] general election will not affect Japan's foreign trade policies, the vice trade minister said Monday.

"There will be no change in our policies even when power shifts," said Vice International Trade and Industry Minister Hideaki Kumano at a news conference.

Kumano said that no matter who leads the new government, the trade framework agreed upon by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton would not be affected because it was a government-to-government promise, not a head-to-head one. He predicted full-scale talks on Japan-U.S. trade will probably start after the summer vacation, if Washington agrees on the timing.

Kumano also said the results of the general election will not have any impact for the time being on the recently resumed Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"Nobody has an objection to moving the talks forward," Kumano said.

12,000 Violation Warnings Issued

OW1707143793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1010 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 17 KYODO—Police have issued a total of 12,384 warnings for violation of the election law as of Friday [16 July] to candidates and their staffs nationwide for Sunday's general election for the House of Representatives, the National Police Agency (NPA) said Saturday.

The statistic was down 44 percent, or 9,713 warnings, from the last election in 1990, the NPA said. About 95 percent of the citations were warnings against the issuing of illegal electoral posters and handbills, according to the NPA.

Police ascribed the drop in campaign violations to the June 18 sudden dissolution of the lower house, giving politicians little time to election preparations.

Police have arrested 15 people and investigated nine others as of Friday on suspicion of disturbing election campaigns by such acts as hurling a glass at a candidate and hitting the driver of a campaign car. In the 1990 general election, 14 people were arrested and 16 other people were investigated, the NPA said.

The official campaigns for the election are to close 8 P.M. Saturday. A total of 955 candidates throughout Japan are vying for the 511 seats in the lower house.

Police on Sunday will deploy about 55,000 officers nationwide to guard the voting.

Parties Issue Statements 18 Jul

OW1707232593 Tokyo KYODO in English 2308 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) warned Sunday [18 July] against "groups of dubious partnership" seeking power for the sake of it, "forcing the nation and the people to the brink of chaos." The LDP issued the statement ahead of the election for the House of Representatives, which started at 7 A.M. across the nation.

The Social Democratic Party [of Japan] pledged not only to clean up politics but also to create a "fairer" society if a coalition government gets in.

Komeito called for support to clean up politics and said the election represents a chance for change.

The Japanese Communist Party said a noncommunist opposition that forms a coalition and pursues LDP policies is not a force that can eradicate money dominated politics.

The Democratic Socialist Party said it must advance to end the LDP's 38-year grip on power.

Sakigake (Harbinger) said it has great expectations that the election will usher in a new political force.

The United Social Democratic Party said conditions exist to end one-party rule and to form a non-LDP coalition government.

The Japan New Party said it has strong expectations for political reform and a change of power.

Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) said the election is a chance to achieve sweeping political reform and replace the LDP by becoming the core of government.

Polling Stations Open on 18 Jul

OW1707233593 Tokyo KYODO in English 2305 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—Voting opened Sunday [18 July] for the 511-seat House of Representatives, with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) facing a crucial test for its 38-year grip on power.

Balloting opened at 7 A.M. and closes at 6 P.M. at 52,875 polling stations. Voting was completed by Saturday at 105 stations on remote islands and hard-to-reach areas.

A total of 955 candidates are vying in 129 constituencies in the 40th lower house election. The number of candidates is the largest since 1955, when the LDP was founded. Eligible voters number 94.86 million.

Vote counting will start shortly after the close of polling and the result of about 90 percent of seats should be known by 11 P.M.

Also Sunday, three by-elections for seats in the opposition-controlled House of Councillors are being held, with one seat at stake in Fukushima Prefecture and two in Gifu Prefecture. The holders of the seats quit to run in the lower house election.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who is also the LDP president, and leaders of eight other major opposition parties made their final appeals to voters on Saturday. Campaigning started on July 4. "We must be correct in our political management at a time when we face a number of domestic and foreign challenges," Miyazawa said to a crowd at Tokyo's Kinshicho station.

Miyazawa also slammed the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] for its pledge to forge a coalition government after the election with the leading opposition party as its nucleus.

Noting that the SDPJ's policy deviates from other opposition parties, the premier asked what will happen to Japan if the SDPJ grabs power in coalition with other opposition forces.

SDPJ Chairman Sadao Yamahana, speaking in front of Shinjuku station said, "all non-LDP forces have unanimously made strides as reformers in the hope of forming a government that replaces the one controlled by the LDP."

Miyazawa opted to call a general election after he failed to survive a no-confidence motion against his cabinet.

The opposition move came after his failure to honor a pledge to achieve political reform during the last parliamentary session, which closed June 18.

The LDP is fielding 285 candidates, the SDPJ 142, the No. 2 opposition Komeito 54 and the middle-of-the-road Democratic Socialist Party 28.

Three new conservative parties—the Japan New Party, Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) and Sakigake (Harbinger)—are fielding 57, 69 and 16 candidates, respectively.

The minor opposition United Social Democratic Party is putting four candidates on its ticket, while the Japanese Communist Party is fielding 129.

Most media polls predicted the pro-business conservative LDP will retain its preelection strength of 227 seats but fail to secure a simple majority in the lower chamber and that the SDPJ will suffer a crushing defeat.

Party Leaders Vote, Comment

OW1807062093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0554 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—Voters in the House of Representatives general election turned out in relatively high numbers Sunday [18 July] morning despite steady rain covering most of Japan.

As of 10 A.M., the national average voter turnout ratio stood at 17.36 percent, compared with 16.09 percent in the previous general election in February 1990, the Home Affairs Ministry said.

In the 1990 election, the final voter turnout ratio was 73.31 percent, a relatively high figure, as the campaign was colored by controversy over the introduction of a consumption tax and the 1989 recruit stocks-for-favors scandal that forced the resignation of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa cast his ballot at a polling station set up in an elementary school in Tokyo's Shibuya ward, and told reporters, "it was a really tough election campaign."

He was apparently referring to a challenge to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party from a string of new conservative parties that lashed out at the ruling party for its failure to pass political reform laws in the last Diet session.

Miyazawa said LDP candidates had been campaigning "as if they were trying to crawl up from the bottom."

Among Japan's 47 prefectures, Shimane Prefecture, the home constituency of Takeshita, ranked first in terms of voter turnout with a ratio of 30.63 percent as of 10 A.M.

Miyazawa was forced to call Sunday's election after a no-confidence vote against his government was passed on June 18, with the help of LDP renegades, for his failure to achieve political reform during the last Diet session.

"I appealed to voters very hard for their support and I believe most of them understood the Liberal Democratic Party's basic positions," he said.

Social Democratic Party [of Japan] Chairman Sadao Yamahana, at a public hall with his wife, told reporters, "certainly it was a tough campaign. Our campaign, however, gained momentum by being alerted at the very toughness and our party felt a strong favorable response (from voters) at the final stage of the campaign," said Yamahana.

Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida told reporters at an elementary school in Nagoya's Mizuho ward, his constituency, that "I want voters to revamp Japan's political landscape on the basis of their judgments," in apparent reference to the possibility that a non-LDP coalition may take power from the ruling party.

Democratic Socialist Party Chairman Keigo Ouchi, at a polling station at Tokyo's Omori No. 3 junior high school, told reporters, "I did everything I could (to win over voters)."

United Social Democratic Party leader Satsuki Eda, one of the five opposition party leaders seeking to form an anti-LDP coalition, said, "I think (the five parties) could successfully embark on a new era."

Masayoshi Takemura, leader of the Sakigake (Harbinger), an LDP breakaway party, told reporters in a public hall in Shiga Prefecture, "now I solemnly want to see how voters would hand down their verdict (on the various parties)."

Morihiro Hosokawa said at the headquarters of his Japan New Party that he hopes to see voters put an end to the LDP's 38-year clamp on power.

Voter Turnout Figures Reported

OW1807054193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0525 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—Slightly more than one-fourth of Japan's eligible voters had cast their ballots Sunday [18 July] morning in the House of Representatives election, a turnout slightly lower than that recorded in February 1990, the Home Affairs Ministry reported.

As of 11 A.M. [0200 GMT], 26.25 percent of the nation's 94.8 million eligible voters had turned out at the polls despite a veil of rainy weather that hung over the archipelago. The election turnout at the same time in the February 1990 poll was 26.33 percent and the final turnout was 73.31 percent.

Slightly more than 27 percent of the nation's male voters went to the polls in the morning, while 25.49 percent of the enfranchised women turned out, according to the ministry.

The highest voter turnouts thus far have been in largely rural prefectures, with Shimane Prefecture reporting a 43.61 percent turnout, followed by Oita with 40.25 percent, and Niigata with 39.76 percent.

The lowest turnouts were recorded in Tokyo, with 14.69 percent, Saitama Prefecture, 15.46 percent, and Kanagawa Prefecture, 15.86 percent, all in eastern Japan where rain fell steadily in the morning.

General Election Voting Ends

OW1807093293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0919 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—Polling stations across Japan closed their doors at 6 P.M. Sunday [0900 GMT] in a general election that could spell the end of 38 years of unbroken rule by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Vote counting will start at 7 P.M. in 129 electoral districts throughout Japan, and results for a majority of the 511 seats in the House of Representatives are expected to be known by around 11 P.M., election officials said.

Complete results for each district are expected to be known by 12:30 A.M. Monday, the officials said.

The voter turnout slowed after showing a brisk start in the early morning. As of 4 P.M., 55.28 percent of Japan's 94.8 million eligible voters had cast their ballots, down 4.99 percentage points from the corresponding at the same time in the 1990 election.

The election was called after the government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was defeated in a no-confidence motion submitted by the opposition camp on June 18. It lost because a slew of defections of Liberal Democratic Party legislators, who set up two new conservative parties.

The no-confidence resolution was tabled after Miyazawa and his party failed to put forward political reform bills which they had promised would clear up Japan's money-dominated politics.

Attention is focused on whether the LDP will be able to stay in power even as a minority government or whether opposition parties will be able to form a coalition that excludes the LDP, analysts said.

Neither the opposition parties nor their candidates have engaged in in-depth discussion, however, over what policies they would follow concerning the economy, security or diplomacy if they were swept to power, they said. The opposition camp, spearheaded by Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) set up by 44 of the LDP rebels, has repeatedly appealed to voters to put an end to the LDP's clamp on power.

The LDP, in response, has blasted the opposition parties, saying they are covering up their incompatible differences in policy platforms.

Most candidates waved the banner of "political reform." There was an absence of specifics, though, about how they would clear up money-dominated politics or curb flows of shady funds to politicians from companies or lobbies seeking to buy influence.

A KYODO News Service survey showed that some 100 winners of lower house seats will be named by 9 P.M. The survey also showed that the outcome in 290 seats will be known shortly after 10 P.M., and the figure will climb to 490 seats by 11 P.M.

Takeshita Regains House Seat

OW1807122993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1218 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Shimane, July 18 KYODO—Scandal-tainted former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita regained his seat in Sunday's [18 July] House of Representatives election without the backing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

It was Takeshita's 13th consecutive victory since 1958.

Running as a conservative independent after the LDP excluded him from its list of candidates, Takeshita placed first among the five who won seats in Shimane Prefecture's single constituency. Takeshita has denied his alleged involvement in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal and rejected repeated calls to quit his Diet seat.

Doi, Koike Win Lower House Seats

OW1807131693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1232 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Kobe, July 18 KYODO—Two women representing old and new parties, Takako Doi and Yuriko Koike, won seats Sunday [18 July] in the general election for Japan's House of Representatives. Doi, former chairwoman of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP), and Koike, a former television newscaster who ran on the Japan New Party (JNP) ticket, fought neck-and-neck among seven candidates in the five-seat No. 2 constituency in Hyogo Prefecture in western Japan.

Shortly after getting news that she is assured of winning the seat, Doi said, "I completed my responsibility for the party because I am the only SDP candidate in this constituency."

Asked about an opposition-led coalition government, she declined to comment, saying only, "It's not an appropriate time for me to tell you about this."

Koike said, "I garnered votes from voters dissatisfied with established parties. I feel responsible for the voters expecting me to take action in the Diet."

During the two-week election campaign beginning July 4, labor unions which were the SDP's traditional support base were split over whether to back Doi. Organized labor eyed ousting the long-governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from power and establishing a coalition among non-LDP parties.

Doi, a staunch supporter of Japan's constitutional ban on the use of military force to resolve international disputes, has resisted intraparty moves toward approving the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] and security arrangements with the United States.

The 210,000-member steel workers union withdrew its support for Doi whose stiff pro-Constitution position runs counter to coalition efforts.

Koike gave up work as a freelance newscaster for TV TOKYO and joined the JNP founded last year by the former Kumamoto governor, Morihiro Hosokawa, who himself won a seat in Sunday's general election. She won a seat through proportional representation in the 1992 House of Councillors election.

A graduate of Cairo University in Egypt, Koike is fluent in the Arabic language.

Doi, an authority on the Japanese Constitution and a former lecturer at her alma mater Doshisha University in Kyoto, assumed the SDP's top post from 1986 to 1991. During her term of office, Doi played a major role in leading the party to major gains in the July 1989 upper house election and the February 1990 lower house general election.

In the 1990 upper house election, the opposition gained a majority and has retained it since then.

She is very popular among women, civic activists who have campaigned to stop the promotion of nuclear power as an energy source in Japan, and those who maintain that the SDF is unconstitutional.

LDP 'Determined' To Hold Power

OW1807130793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1257 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is determined to continue its hold on power as Sunday's [18 July] general election assured it will remain Japan's largest party, LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama said Sunday. Kajiyama said, "The counting of votes in the LDP's favor means the Japanese people have encouraged (it) to lead Japanese politics."

Computer projections showed the LDP would not win a simple majority in the 511-seat House of Representatives but will continue to hold the most seats.

The LDP held a comfortable majority in the lower house before Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa dissolved it hours after a no-confidence motion against his cabinet was passed June 18. Shortly after the dissolution, more than 50 ruling party members, many of whom supported the motion, set up two breakaway parties—Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) and Sakigake (Harbinger).

Miyazawa, Nakasone Retain Seats

OW1807151993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1454 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will match its preelection strength of 227 seats in Sunday's election for the House of Representatives but is unlikely to win an overall majority, a KYODO News Service projection showed late Sunday evening.

Meanwhile, the largest opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) is certain to fall below its previous record low of 85 seats, the KYODO projection showed.

Three new conservative parties were making great strides as the vote count proceeded.

KYODO projections indicate that the LDP will fall below the 256 seats needed for a simple majority in the

511-seat lower house. As of 11:15 P.M., the LDP, which has held power continuously for 38 years, had won 197 seats and the SDP 59 seats.

The LDP has lost its overall majority three times in the past but each time it managed later to regain a majority after conservative independents joined it. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said the LDP had a very tough election campaign and that was reflected in the election returns. He added he is sorry he has caused trouble to his fellow LDP members.

SDP Chairman Sadao Yamahana conceded defeat in the election late Sunday, saying the SDP has been overwhelmed in the poll because of support shown for three new conservative parties.

SDP Secretary General Hirotaka Akamatsu echoed Yamahana and said votes critical of the LDP did not go to the SDP but instead went to the three parties—Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), the Japan New Party (JNP) and Sakigake (Harbinger).

Yamahana said, "It's difficult for the SDP to gain more than 100 seats." He said the SDP, which had 134 seats before the poll, was setting its sights on winning more than 80 seats.

Shinseito, formed by defectors from the LDP, captured 51 seats by late evening, with the count still continuing, the 14-month-old JNP 29 seats and another LDP splinter group, Sakigake (Harbinger) 11.

The No. 2 opposition party, Komeito, had 42 seats, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) 13 and the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) 12. The United Social Democratic Party (USDP) retained its preelection strength of four seats.

Vote counting started at 7 P.M., an hour after polling booths closed. Final results of the election are expected to be known by 12:30 A.M. Monday.

A total of 955 candidates were running for the 511 seats at stake in Sunday's election.

Miyazawa dissolved the lower house and called the election after the government, deserted by 46 LDP members, lost an opposition-led no-confidence vote June 18. The vote was seen as a protest against his cabinet for failing to achieve political reform.

Prominent candidates returned to the lower house in early results included Miyazawa, former Prime Ministers Toshiki Kaifu and Yasuhiro Nakasone, Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Minister Masaharu Gotoda and former Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who has been linked to a money-and-mob scandal, also won a seat as an independent.

Other notable winners included Shinseito leader and former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, JNP head Morihiro Hosokawa, Masayoshi Takemura, leader of Sakigake, and USDP head Satsuki Eda.

Rainy weather across the nation brought a low voter turnout. An estimated 66.43 percent of Japan's 94.8 million eligible voters cast their ballots, down 6.88 percentage points from the 1990 general election.

Yamahana Denies Resignation

OW1807153893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1520 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—Sadao Yamahana, chairman of the largest opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP), brushed aside suggestions Sunday he will resign to take responsibility for the party's crushing defeat in the general election.

Yamahana told reporters he will instead do his utmost in negotiations to form a coalition government with other opposition parties. He conceded defeat in the election, saying the SDP has been overwhelmed by the strong support for three new conservative parties. "It's difficult for the SDP to gain more than 100 seats" out of the 511 seats at stake in the general election, he said.

Yamahana said the SDP is setting its sights on winning more than 80 seats.

Party Secretary General Hirotaka Akamatsu said votes against the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) went to Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), the Japan New Party (JNP) and Sakigake (Harbinger) instead of the SDP. The SDP held 134 seats in the lower house before it was dissolved June 18 when an opposition no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was passed with the help of some LDP members.

The SDP fielded 142 candidates in the election. Unofficial returns showed that by midnight, it had secured only 66 seats.

KYODO News Service projections showed the party is unlikely to secure 85 seats, its record low marked in 1986.

Akira Yamagishi, president of Japan's largest labor organization Rengo, said the SDP's era as a decisive political force has ended. "The SDP will have little impact on Japanese politics in the future," Yamagishi said.

The eight million-strong Rengo or the Japanese Trade Union Confederation has been the traditional support base of the SDP and the Democratic Socialist Party.

DSP, Komeito Heads on Alternatives

OW1807155593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1541 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Japan's No. 4 opposition party leader Keigo Ouchi said Sunday [18 July] his party might form a coalition government with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) if the ruling LDP changes.

But Ouchi, head of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), did not mention what changes the ruling party should make. He said it is, first of all, common sense for the LDP to relinquish its hold on power now that it no longer has a majority in the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, Koshiro Ishida, head of Japan's second largest opposition party Komeito, flatly denied his party will form a coalition government with the LDP.

A special Diet session to choose a new prime minister is to be convened within 30 days of Sunday's general election.

Ishida said the leaders of five noncommunist opposition parties need to hold a meeting to discuss who they will nominate as their unified candidate for prime minister. He also said the five parties will be able to agree with the Japan New Party (JNP) and Sakigake (Harbinger) on the nomination of a prime minister.

On June 27, leaders of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), DSP, Komeito, Shinseito and the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) met and agreed on efforts to install a coalition government.

Political analysts predict the JNP and Sakigake, which have agreed to set up a joint parliamentary group in the Diet, are certain to hold a swing vote in an election to choose a prime minister in the upcoming special session.

Shinseito Urges Cooperation

OW1807160293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1453 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 18 KYODO—The new conservative party Shinseito on Sunday [18 July] called for the Japan New Party (JNP) and Sakigake (Harbinger) to join political forces. Tsutomu Hata, head of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), said the three parties will be able to discuss Diet businesses in forthcoming Diet sessions since "they have no differences in basic policies."

JNP leader Morihiro Hosokawa and Sakigake head Masayoshi Takemura both said the parties would be able to make political decisions on dealing with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The JNP and Sakigake are almost certain to hold a swing vote if there is a runoff election to choose a prime minister. The runoff election would be held between two top candidates of the first election if there is no clear winner in the initial vote.

Hiraiwa on Coalition Led by LDP

OW1807162693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1613 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Top business leader Gaishi Hiraiwa welcomed the result of Sunday's House of Representatives election, saying he hopes a stable coalition government with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as its axis will be established as early as possible.

Hiraiwa, chairman of Keidanren (the Federation of Economic Organizations), said the political scene may have diversified but conservatives generally managed to expand their presence. He said the new government will have to tackle issues such as stimulation of the economy, political reform, and facilitation of Japan-U.S. relations.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, said Sunday's poll paved the way for a bipartite government in the future.

Hayami said the traditional pattern of a showdown between the conservatives and the opposition forces has receded, and voters, having been given more choice, supported the "new conservatives." He said he expected openness from a new coalition government, and expected a lessening of support for the LDP among business leaders.

Meanwhile, Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations, saw the LDP's performance in virtually matching its preelection strength as being a result of the party's strong commitment to local communities.

Rokuro Ishikawa, head of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and industry, said the LDP's results reflected a wish among voters to see a continuation of existing government policies.

But Nagano said the major progress by the new groups and a massive defeat for the Social Democratic Party indicates expectations of change in Japanese politics.

58 LDP Defectors Regain Seats

OW1807175593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1741 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Members who bolted from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) retained more seats than expected in Sunday's general election as 58 of 62 were reelected.

Of the 35 members of the LDP breakaway Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), which backed a no-confidence resolution against the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa last month, 34 regained their seats.

Overall, Shinseito managed to secure 55 seats in the election.

Another party which split from the LDP, Sakigake (Harbinger), also saw nine of its 10 former lower house members successfully clear the election hurdle. Sakigake won 13 seats.

Six former LDP members who ran as conservative independents were also elected, gaining solid support from their electorates by appealing for political reform.

Of 11 dissidents who stayed with the party, two lost their seats and nine others won in the election.

After the opposition-proposed no-confidence vote cleared the lower house June 18 with the support of 38 LDP members, 48 of the party's members in the chamber defected.

Passage of the resolution accusing Miyazawa's cabinet of failing to deliver on a pledge to implement political reform forced the prime minister to dissolve the powerful lower chamber, paving the way for the election.

SDP To Push Coalition Proposal

OW1807170393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1650 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP), despite taking a beating in Sunday's poll for the House of Representatives, vowed to push a proposal to form a coalition with four other parties to form a new government.

In a press statement issued after its preelection strength of 134 seats had been almost halved, the SDP said, "the Social Democratic Party wants to attain the goal of establishing a non-Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) coalition comprising opposition forces." It added, "The era of a coalition government is beginning to dawn."

The SDP issued the statement after its Chairman Sadao Yamahana conceded defeat with the party rocked by the loss of 64 seats.

The SDP won 70 seats in total, according to the final official tally. The showing was far below its record post-1955 low of 85 seats it registered in 1986. The SDP had been initiated as the result of the 1955 merger of two leftist parties.

The SDP proposed holding a "preparatory conference" for hammering out a strategy to seize power from the LDP by integrating the fast-emerging Japan New Party [Shinseito] and Sakigake (Harbinger) into the five-party coalition.

Yamahana said his party believes it is a "matter of course for constitutional politics" to propose himself as a possible candidate for the prime ministership in a special parliamentary session to convene later this month or early next month. It remains to be seen whether other parties will agree to such a proposal.

Reasons for SDP's Defeat Viewed

OW1807172493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1640 GMT 18 Jul 93

["News analysis" by Tadashi Matsumoto and Hideharu Torii: "SDP Defeat Is Result of Failure To Reshape Itself"]

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The crushing defeat of the largest opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) in Sunday's [18 July] general election resulted from its failure to reshape itself from a party of leftist ideology, political analysts said. The SDP's defeat not only cast a shadow over its future but could hamper a coalition plan by noncommunist opposition parties, they said.

The SDP captured a record low 70 seats, compared with 136 seats in the previous election in 1990. In that election, the party added 51 seats to its total on the popularity of then Chairwoman Takako Doi as well as public outrage over political scandals of the ruling party and the introduction of a consumption tax, said Yukio Hori, professor of political science at Tohoku Fukushi University.

But the fanfare proved temporary and the party has returned to its previous "track," he said. "The party has since been reviewing its platform to chart its (future) course but its policies have been vague," Hori said.

A draft "1993 Declaration" characterizes the party as a "national party based on a new social democracy." The draft conditionally recognizes Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) as constitutional and accepts the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

But the declaration was a long-overdue step for the party and one that may have proved too late. And the SDP's defense policy of nonalignment, neutrality and nonmilitary differs from other opposition parties, giving the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) a strong card to play in the election by calling the idea of an opposition coalition a "chaotic" choice.

Since its formation, the SDP has never been at the helm of power for very long—from 1947 to 1948 it formed the nine-month-long coalition government of Prime Minister Tetsu Katayama. The party also joined the successive coalition government of Prime Minister Hitoshi Ashida but it too was short-lived.

Since that period, the most significant period of its strength in the lower house was in 1958, when it had 166 seats. The party fell to 90 in 1969, however, and its force drifted between 123 and 107 until 1983. In 1986 it had a record low 85 seats.

Prof. Hori said the SDP's failure to reshape itself can be contrasted with Germany's Social Democratic Party. The German party adopted a platform in 1959 that broke with Marxist philosophy, transforming itself into a national party that aimed to take power through reform.

Germany's SDP joined a coalition government from 1966 to 1969 and formed a coalition government in 1969 under Chancellor Willy Brandt. The party held on to power until 1982.

Hori said Japan's SDP has only been a "resistance party" against the government. "Soft" supporters of the SDP cast their ballots for the party when they dislike policies of the ruling LDP, but those supporters are not interested in having the party take power, he said.

He also said the SDP has been a party for trade unions rather than for the individual worker. Trade unions have been a major support base for the party but that base has been undermined with union membership rates on the decline, he said.

The number of SDP lower house members from trade unions usually accounts for 60 percent. But the rate of organized workers has dwindled from about 40 percent to 24.4 percent over the past 20 years.

The SDP's history since its founding in 1945 has been characterized by ideological controversy between leftists and rightists within the party on whether it should be a broad-based national party or a class party. The party split into two in 1951 due to differences on Japan's peace treaty and the conclusion of a security treaty with the United States but the Socialist Party was reunified in 1955.

In its 1955 platform, the party stated it was a "national party with the working class at its core" but it rejected communism.

Japan entered a rapid economic growth period in the 1960s after the postwar political climax of a mass protest movement against the 1960 revision of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. Even after the tremendous economic and political changes in Japan during the 1960s, the SDP adopted a document in 1964 entitled the "Road to Socialism in Japan," which called for a Marxist-Leninist class dictatorship—a position not considered in line with the general national consensus.

In 1960, Suehiro Nishio and dozens of other rightists quit the party and founded the Democratic Socialist Party.

A controversy over party reform arose again in 1977 after former Secretary General Saburo Eda, the late father of Satsuki Eda, leader of the United Social Democratic Party, bolted the party and the SDP suffered a serious setback in the House of Councillors election.

Party reform centered on the intraparty group socialism association, which called for a proletarian dictatorship and a socialist government through peaceful revolution. The group gained strength in the 1970s but its influence waned in the mid-1980s.

Trying to build a new image for the party, then Chairman Masashi Ishibashi proposed in 1983 to modify the party's stance that the Self-Defense Forces was unconstitutional. He argued that while the SDF are unconstitutional, they are "legitimate" in that they were brought into being through legal processes.

The party adopted a "new declaration" in 1986 which stated the "existing socialism is different in nature from the socialism the SDP aims to establish and our party will not follow that course."

Kaifu: 'Severe Judgment' Delivered

OW1807175193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1743 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu indirectly urged Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa late Sunday to step down as president of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and also as head of government. Kaifu, who was replaced by Miyazawa as LDP president and prime minister 19 months ago, said the Japanese people had delivered a severe judgment on the LDP.

Meanwhile, the leader of the LDP's No. 4 faction, Keizo Obuchi, tacitly called for Miyazawa's resignation after the LDP's failure to regain a majority in Sunday's general election for the House of Representatives.

The LDP finished with 223 seats in the lower house, far below a simple majority of 256 seats in the 511-member chamber, and also down from its preelection strength of 227 seats. Before losing a no-confidence vote on June 18 it had a solid majority with 275 seats.

Former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, leader of the No. 3 faction, said, "Miyazawa should decide for himself on whether he steps down from the prime ministership. I won't grill Mr. Miyazawa over his responsibility."

Political Future Discussed

OW1807174193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1730 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Report by Takehiko Kajita]

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Japanese opted for the risk of opening a Pandora's box by supporting new parties in Sunday's general election in the hope of unleashing drastic change to a once entrenched political system. While the long-dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) fell far short of a majority in the 511-seat House of Representatives, the biggest loser was the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP), which suffered its worst setback since inauguration.

In contrast, three new conservative parties—Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), Sakigake (Harbinger) and the Japan New Party (JNP)—were impressive gainers. Riding on the tide of anti-LDP sentiment, they boosted their Diet seats at the expense of the SDP.

The LDP's failure to win a majority may have set the stage for a collapse of its unbroken 38-year domination of Japanese politics.

However, the prospect for a coalition government excluding the LDP is dim mainly because of the SDP's humiliation, which has made it extremely difficult for the party to play a pivotal role in forming such a union. The LDP, still by far the strongest party in the lower house, will likely try to hold onto the reins of power with a minority government or through a loose coalition with other parties.

During the campaign, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, concurrently LDP president, ruled out ever handing power over to other political forces, saying while it remains the No. 1 entity, the party has a mandate to govern. By minimizing its losses in the election, the immediate task for the LDP is to explore ways of retaining power.

The pro-business conservative party is likely to step up its effort to woo the JNP and Sakigake—which have agreed to form a joint parliamentary group after the poll and may eventually be "united in marriage"—to come on board one way or the other.

The LDP is also said to be considering alignment with the Democratic Socialist Party, even if it has to give a cabinet portfolio to the centrist opposition party.

One of the biggest questions ahead is the prime ministership—will Miyazawa temporarily keep his job or cede power to someone else in the LDP, or can someone from outside the party win the post? Miyazawa failed to live up to his oft-stated pledge to achieve political reform and was forced to dissolve the lower house for the snap general election after a humiliating defeat in a confidence vote on his cabinet.

Political reform, centering on electoral changes and tighter curbs on political funding, has topped the agenda since the Recruit and Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandals shook Japan.

Last week, former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and his reform-oriented supporters pressed Miyazawa to step down if the LDP suffers a crushing defeat in the election.

LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama said, "President Miyazawa and the three top party executives are all painfully aware of their responsibility" for fighting the election without the dozens of legislators who broke away to create new parties. Miyazawa also apologized for the party's crisis.

It appears that reaching a consensus within party ranks and picking a candidate for prime minister will be a formidable task for the LDP.

Meanwhile, LDP splinter party Shinseito and Komeito are still holding to an earlier plan to shift power from the LDP by winning over the JNP, Sakigake and pro-reformers within LDP. But major stumbling blocks impede a possible coalition of non-LDP forces. One is the likelihood the SDP's disastrous showing will lead to calls for the resignation of party leader Sadao Yamahana, who has been an active participant in the drive to form a coalition.

Yamahana, rejecting the possibility of his imminent resignation, said he will do his utmost to bring to a successful conclusion negotiations to forge a coalition government among non-LDP forces.

It also looks difficult for the SDP to iron out differences with other parties over such basic policy issues as Japan-U.S. security arrangements, the Self-Defense Forces and the use of nuclear energy.

"Non-LDP forces can definitely resolve differences in policy issues unless they are selfish," said Yukio Hori, a political science professor at Tohoku Fukushi University, adding Komeito has already made concessions that were unimaginable in the 1970s.

Many political analysts agree that whatever government is formed, it will undoubtedly be unstable. "The next government will be fairly short-lived and another general election likely," said Kenzo Uchida, professor of political science at Tokai University. "A loose two-party political system will be created gradually."

A special Diet session which must convene within 30 days of the election may set the stage for political turmoil. It remains to be seen whether Japanese voters' step into the unknown will bring any lasting, favorable change.

Miyazawa 'Pressured' To Resign

OW1807172993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1721 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Top executives of a gloom-laden Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) pressured Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa early Monday [19 July] to resign to take responsibility for the party's poor showing in Sunday's election for the House of Representatives.

LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama hinted at Miyazawa's resignation, saying he believes the prime minister will leave the decision to the party's top four executives. He also said he wants to make clear the responsibility to the public in a "proper way."

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, the head of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, said it is necessary for the party to make a fresh start.

The LDP, battered by internal conflicts and the creation of new conservatives parties, failed to maintain its preelection strength in the lower house.

The party, which has held control of the lower house for the past 38 years, finished with 223 seats. It went into the election with 227 seats, and had held a solid majority of 275 before defections which toppled it from power in a no-confidence vote in the lower house on June 18. The LDP fell far short of the 256 seats it needed for a simple majority in the 511-seat chamber.

Miyazawa said the LDP had a very tough election campaign and that was reflected in the election returns. He added he is sorry he has caused trouble to his fellow LDP members.

Miyazawa may announce his resignation at a scheduled news conference on Monday afternoon, political sources said. [passage omitted on election results]

Shinseito leader Hata indicated that he plans to call on the JNP [Japan New Party] and Sakigake to cooperate in forging a coalition among non-LDP forces, saying the two parties basically have similar policies as his party.

Hata said the result of the election showed that the Japanese public want change in the nation's politics.

JNP leader Hosokawa refused to be drawn on what kind of coalition government should be formed, saying it cannot be predicted at the moment. Regarding the prime ministership, Hosokawa said the JNP and Sakigake, which had agreed to form a joint parliamentary group after the election, will field one candidate.

The Constitution stipulates that a special Diet session be convened within 30 days of a general election to elect a new prime minister after the resignation of the cabinet en masse.

Meanwhile, USDP [United Social Democratic Party] leader Eda called for a change of power and said the seven opposition parties, including the three new parties but not the communists, should coordinate on policies.

He cited Hata, Hosokawa and Sakigake leader Takemura as possible candidates for the prime ministership in a coalition government.

A total of 955 candidates ran for the 511 seats at stake in Sunday's election.

Miyazawa dissolved the lower house and called the election after the government, deserted by 46 LDP members, lost an opposition-led no-confidence vote on June 18. The vote was seen as a protest against his cabinet for failing to achieve political reform.

Prominent candidates returned to the lower house included Miyazawa, former Prime Ministers Toshiki Kaifu and Yasuhiro Nakasone, Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Minister Masaharu Gotoda and Former Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who has been linked to a money-and-mob scandal, also won a seat as an independent.

Other notable winners included Shinseito leader and former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, JNP head Morihiro Hosokawa, Masayoshi Takemura, leader of Sakigake, and USDP head Satsuki Eda.

Makiko Tanaka, 49, the daughter of former Prime Minister and LDP kingmaker Kakuei Tanaka, won her first election as a conservative independent in Niigata Prefecture.

Among the unsuccessful candidates were former DSP chief Saburo Tsukamoto.

Rainy weather across the nation brought a low voter turnout. An estimated 67.28 percent of Japan's 94.8 million eligible voters cast their ballots, down 6.03 percentage points from the 1990 general election.

Miyazawa Holds News Conference

OW1907073993 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0500 GMT 19 Jul 93

[News conference given by Kiichi Miyazawa, Japanese prime minister and concurrently president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), at the LDP headquarters in Nagata-cho, Tokyo; live]

[Text] [Dean of the press corps] President Miyazawa, you must have had a hard time during the election campaigning.

[Miyazawa] Thank you all very much for your kind support.

[Dean of the press corps] We know that you must be very tired, and we are grateful to you for this conference. Since time is limited, I would like to start asking you a few questions.

First of all, senior members of the Japan National Press Club, including NHK, YOMIURI SHIMBUN, and HOKKAIDO SHIMBUN, will ask you some major questions. Then, reporters from other papers will be given time to ask questions. This is how we plan to conduct this news conference

My first question concerns the results of the election held yesterday. The Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] was able to maintain the force that it had prior to the public announcement of the election but failed to obtain the majority. And we take the outcome as indicating that the people have given a severe judgment. First of all, I would like to ask you how you feel about the result.

[Miyazawa] As far as we are concerned, it was certainly a very difficult election. However, thanks to your support, we were able to gain a greater force than we had prior to the public announcement. Moreover, the LDP has been chosen as the number one party, leading other parties by far. Therefore, we must do our utmost to live up to our people's expectations. And we feel grateful to our people for their support.

Moreover, as has been said, we failed to obtain the majority. Since our intention was to obtain the majority, we must take the outcome as our people's severe criticism or reproach against us. And I feel that we must straighten ourselves to carry out our future tasks.

Well, I know that I have caused my comrades to undergo very hard campaigning in the election. However, with the voters' encouragement, we were able to become the first party, and I feel grateful to our people for this outcome.

[Dean of the press corps] This question is concerned with the election outcome but I would like to ask you a frank question. I think the point at issue now is focussed on the question as to whether the president should remain in his post or resign. Mr. President, what is your view concerning this question?

[Miyazawa] First, I must admit that I myself in my capacity as the president should be blamed above anybody else for the split of the party. And it gives me pain to think that our party members have been forced to undergo hard campaigning during the election.

Then comes the question concerning what should be done in the future. As I am in charge of state affairs, I think I myself must think about what I am supposed to do while taking into account one or two matters that I would like to point out now.

One of them naturally concerns the fact, as I have just mentioned,that the LDP has been chosen as the number one party, the dominant party. In that sense, it is the LDP's duty to the people to assume the reins of the national government. And I think that while reflecting upon those matters that should be reconsidered, we must live up to our people's expectations.

Second, under such a harsh situation both at home and abroad, I feel that there should be no stagnation in our state affairs.

And third, with regard to our party affairs, our party must get united. An organization for promoting unity and advance has been established and this group is scheduled to hold a meeting tomorrow. Efforts must be made to ensure that the party unity is not disrupted. Just today, I have asked the secretary general to take care of this matter.

I feel that while taking all these matters into consideration, I would like to extensively listen to party members' opinions, and I myself must make a decision on this matter.

[Dean of the press corps] About the timing for making this decision, when do you think it will be?

[Miyazawa] Well, soon we will have to convene an extraordinary session of the Diet. And this session will have to be convened within 30 days. In this connection, I think the decision will naturally have to be made within this period.

[Unidentified reporter] With regard to this issue, I think there is an opinion within the LDP that you should take responsibility not only for the outcome of the election but also for causing the split within the party. In this regard, if you fail to urgently clarify your position on the question as to whether you should remain in the current post or resign, the chaos in the LDP might worsen and a political vacuum might occur.

[Miyazawa] Although the LDP faced an uphill battle during the election campaigns, we have obtained more seats than we had before the campaigning got under way. So it can be said that we did well in the election. However, I am solely to blame for causing the split in the party. But since breakaway members have already left the party, we should cope with this question while making efforts to maintain party unity. Today, I asked the secretary general to do so.

[Reporter] Are you suggesting if your remaining president becomes an obstacle to maintaining the party's unity, you will resign?

[Miyazawa] From now on, I have to work to maintain party unity, which is an important task for me. To fulfill this task, I believe I have to hear other party members' opinions and make a decision on my own.

[Reporter] I feel that dissatisfaction with you has been mounting within the LDP because other members seem to think, despite the outcome of the election, you are the one to blame for the uphill battle in the election. To hear opinions from other members, are you planning to set up a committee?

[Miyazawa] First, party members should confirm the determination to maintain unity and make an advance. Then the secretary general and other executives will, I think, hear opinions from other members.

[Reporter] We have heard that LDP leaders, including Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama, hope to clarify their position regarding the question as to whether you should remain in the post or resign after paving the way for party reform and reorganization. You said earlier that you discussed this matter with Mr. Kajiyama today. What do you think of this LDP leadership's intention?

[Miyazawa] My course of action as LDP president should be determined by myself. Today, the secretary general came to me and said the four top LDP executives would deal with the issue regarding my course of action while working to maintain party unity. So I said to him: "Please do so. I also will work with you."

[Unidentified reporter] Forgive me for asking a similar question, but do you think that, depending on the atmosphere within the LDP, it is possible for you to run in the premiership election to be held during a special Diet session? Or do you want to run?

[Miyazawa] Because I was responsible for the ruling LDP's election campaigns as party president, if other party members agree to designate me a candidate for premiership, I will run in the election.

[Reporter] You said that at today's meeting, you agreed with the secretary general to reorganize the party structure. Do you think if you continue to sit on the top of the new structure, you still can call it a new structure?

[Miyazawa] I cannot say anyting definite on your question. I have agreed with the secretary general today that while making efforts to maintain party unity, we should hear opinions on the party reorganization from party members, who have been elected to the lower house, to form a party consensus.

[Reporter] I am sorry but what you have said is very vague. Although the LDP leaders are said to be determined to resign to take responsibility,...

[Miyazawa] I have not been told that way. What the LDP leaders told me today was that they would work together to maintain party unity. And I pleaded them to do so.

[Reporter] In return for your being designated as a candidate for premiership in the upcoming special Diet session, will you resign after your term as LDP president expires in September?

[Miyazawa] I have not thought at all what I would do in September. Anyway, no matter what the consequences of the recent events, the election for the LDP presidency will be held in September.

[Reporter] If you remain to be LDP president, newly established parties may approach you to propose forming a coalition government together. In such a trend, do you think it is possible that more LDP members, who take the same stance on political reform as the new parties do, will leave the LDP?

[Miyazawa] I talked about this matter earlier. I said that the party's unity comes first...our party's unity should not be affected by outside influence. That is very important.

[Dean of the press corps] If reporters from other companies have any questions in connection with this issue, please go ahead.

[Unidentified reporter] Let me change the topic. Mr. Prime Minister, under the situation where the LDP has lost its hold on the majority—the election results show that the LDP has failed to win a majority of seats—if the LDP continues to hold on to power, how does it intend to form a stable political regime?

[Miyazawa] People have various opinions. Among democratic states, it is rather rare that one political party holds an absolute majority. In Japan's case, we have been fortunate enough to have such a situation continue for a long time. Of course, there has also been criticism about this. From now on, this may not be the case. That, in itself, is fine. Looking at other countries, parties with similar policies may exchange views on policy, or form a coalition government to maintain a political regime in some cases. We may have to think about that—of course, this is for the electors to decide. Some people say we have entered such an era. Therefore, we may have to consider policy consultations and coordination as the basis of political management.

[Unidentified reporter] For example, on the assumption that you intend to form a coalition government, the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] is, for instance, saying that coalition is possible if the LDP president is replaced. Mr. Prime Minister, do you think your remaining in office will be an obstacle to forming a coalition or a stable government?

[Miyazawa] I have been cautious about a coalition during the election campaign, and I still hold the same view, because this is a question that has to do not only with our party, but also with what other parties [words indistinct] think. I think we must not talk about it lightly. As I said earlier, this will be our first experience with such a situation. The party's unity comes first. Our party's unity should not be undermined by outside influence. That is very important.

[Dean of the press corps] Mr. President, do you have any definite ideas about the parties with which the LDP can form an "alignment" [renkei]—I will use this word instead of "coalition" [renritsu]—or other types of cooperative relationship?

[Miyazawa] Since I am speaking without taking into account what the other parties thinks—theoretically speaking, I think our party can align with any party if we share the same policies in many cases and in various forms.

[Dean of the press corps] I can understand how you feel, but as a practical question, if an alignment becomes impossible, you will have to assume political power as a lone minority party. Has there been any change in the LDP's decision of not giving up power, even if it has to take up the reins of government as a lone minority party?

[Miyazawa] Our party has won way above 200 seats. The No. 2 party has not been able to obtain even 100 seats. I think the people's mandate is very clear. I believe we should live up to the people's trust. To answer your question, should a cabinet not backed by an absolute majority be formed, when it comes to drafting legislations and drawing up the budget, it will be meaningless if such bills cannot be passed. Thus, through such processes, there will be contacts among various political parties. After all, that is the way democratic politics operate. It is important to do things in such a manner.

[Dean of the press corps] Now, in your mind, do you have any particular parties which you want to approach?

[Miyazawa] Do you mean a party we want to align with? It is premature to discuss this issue. We have to first discuss what kind of a government we should create. Even if we come to decide to form an alliance with other parties as you said, we would have to hold talks with each party within the lower house to seek their cooperation as much as possible. Since we do not have the majority of seats, it is difficult to have bills on budget and laws passed. In this sense, to have bills passed, I think it would be extremely important to hold prior negotiations with other parties.

[Dean of the press corps] When your party allies with other parties, the LDP's position on promoting political reform would be the key to alliance with them—although the LDP's position on political reform invited the current political situation. What is the LDP's future position on political reform?

[Miyazawa] I think we need to go back to our position when the political reform outline was worked out in 1989 and restart from there. In the previous Diet session, where we had over 100-hours of discussion, I was involved in talks with opposition parties in an attempt to seek a compromise. Since we spent a lot of time discussing political reform, I think the LDP and opposition parties have understood each other's position quite well. For that reason, I feel that we have experience in discussing political reform. We also had the election. In view of this, I am thinking of tackling political reform again.

[Dean of the press corps] In the previous Diet session, the LDP proposed to introduce a single-seat constituency system. Do you mean that there is the possibility that the LDP will change its position?

[Miyazawa] This is what I meant when I said that we need to go back to the starting point of our political reform outline. Judging from our previous decision-making process, I feel that a more flexible attitude should be taken in the LDP's General Council.

[Dean of the press corps] You mentioned that the LDP needs to go back to the starting point of the political reform outline hammered out by the Kaifu administration, which proposes a combined electoral system of single-seat and proportional representation constituencies for the House of Representatives. Are you planning to introduce this electoral system or do you intend to adopt a different decision-making process?

[Miyazawa] The political reform outline first points out that there is a problem in the multiple-seat constituency system. It says the multiple-seat constituency system should be replaced by the single-seat constituency system. However, it also says that when introducing the single-seat constituency system, some variations may be made to the system if necessary. Since the single-seat constituency system proposed by the outline is not clearly defined, we need to reconsider this portion. In addition, in light of the previous Diet session, I think that it is probably desirable to hold advance negotiations with opposition parties which share similar policies so that we can consult and coordinate views. In the previous Diet session, we had prior discussions at the special committee. Based on the previous experience and since we are getting to understand each other's views and what portions are common, I think that it is desirable to make informal, advance contact rather than submitting a proposal without prior consultations.

[Dean of the press corps] Speaking of political reform, do you intend to carry out political reform at a special Diet session or an extraordinary Diet session in the fall?

[Miyazawa] To tell you the truth, I have not yet thought of a special Diet session. This is because it will physically take time to complete such works as the preparation of place cards and the allotment of rooms in the Diet to political parties—this allotment map will be changed drastically—I was told that this work will not be finished until late this month. But we have the Bon holidays [the Buddhist All Souls' Day] in the middle of August. I do not think it is wise to hold a Diet session around the Bon holidays. Since I have no idea when a special Diet session should be held and how long it will take, I cannot answer this question.

[Unidentified reporter] You said that you wanted to settle the political reform bills in a way different from the past process. However, I read about LDP decisions on a system to replace the multiple-seat electoral system, and on the single-seat electoral system, which was discussed during the previous Diet session. I noticed that there are many different opinions in the LDP. Under such a condition, are you sure that you can unify the opinions and have the party support one idea, which seems to me is the heiritsu system [combination of a single-seat system and a proportionate representation system advocated by the Kaifu administration]?

[Miyazawa] This is not a matter of the LDP alone. As I noticed during the previous Diet session, other parties also had different opinions within themselves. Since we went through the hard and long experience, I think we now have a better understanding of each other. However, since the experience we had during the previous Diet session was very severe, I do not think we can be optimistic at all. We have already built foundations to a certain extent, thanks to this experience we had. Therefore, I hope that we will be able to come up with some idea while consulting with each other. I know it is not an easy task to do.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you mean that you will spend a considerable amount of time on unifying the party?

[Miyazawa] It will be a process of coordinating with other parties which share the same ideas with us, while listening to the opinions within the LDP.

[Unidentified reporter] Let me ask you straightforwardly. Over this issue, or regarding the issue of political reform, it seems to me that there are many different opinions in the LDP. Do you not think that this process of unifying the party, on the contrary, may deepen the gap among the party members or may develop into a possibility of splitting the party once again?

[Miyazawa] I hope it will not happen. Due to the concern, [you have just described], we formed the Council for Unity and Advancement [kessoku zenshin no kai]. When it was formed, we hoped that the council would become an organization which would bear the responsibility of promoting party and political reforms after the election. I hope the council will prevent what you have described.

[Unidentified reporter] It turned out that the non-LDP forces gained more seats than the LDP. What do you think of the non-LDP forces and how are you going to deal with them?

[Miyazawa] Abstractly speaking, the policies of the Japan Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party of Japan are incompatible with LDP policies. Those two parties excepted, I think the other parties have almost the same political ideas that we do. People call us either non-LDP forces or LDP. But, as far as policies are concerned, I think that it is possible to make different classifications. People say either LDP or non-LDP because it happened that the recent election was fought between the two forces.

[Dean of the press corps] We are running out of time. If reporters from other companies have any questions, please go ahead.

[Unidentified reporter] There is not much time left before the special Diet session convenes. I understand that to realize what you have said, you have a rough plan to first throw your energy into restructuring the party and then work to form an alliance with other parties. Am I right?

[Miyazawa] I plan to ask the secretary general and other party leaders to do these tasks. First we need to confirm our determination to maintain unity, and should contact other parties which have almost the same political stance that we do. This is our plan. I think it is not impolite to use the word "contact" since it has a broad meaning.

[Unidentified reporter] You said earlier that the party's unity comes first. It has been said that because of your political reform stance, many LDP members are critical of you. How would you react if your resignation becomes essential to maintaining the party's unity?

[Miyazawa] On this issue, the LDP leadership will work to coordinate opinions within the party at the committee on promoting party unity.

[Unidentified reporter] It may be rude to say, but from our point of view, it seems that sentiments of LDP members are now against you. What do you think of this?

[Miyazawa] Because they had an uphill battle in the recent election, they may have such sentiments. But what matters is that we designate someone to the premiership while maintaining the party's unity and continuing to pursue national politics.

[Unidentified reporter] It may be rude to ask this, but I think you have two options: one is that you remain in post in defiance of a unanimous call within the LDP urging your resignation, and the other is you clarify your course of action before you are urged to resign. Which one do you choose?

[Miyazawa] As I have repeatedly said, this is a matter I myself have to make a decision on after listening to other party members' opinions.

[Unidentified reporter] Procedurally speaking, it is natural for you to take responsibility for having failed to win a majority in the election, if the approval of no-confidence motion and the dissolution of the House of Representatives are taken into account.

[Miyazawa] I can hardly understand your logic. Why is it so?

[Unidentified reporter] You said earlier that the LDP's unity should not be affected by outside influence. Did you make this remark while thinking of specific outside influence? Or was it just a general view?

[Miyazawa] I said so just as a general view. Our party will not be affected by outside influence if we have a simple majority in the house. But in actuality, we will have to negotiate with other parties whenever we need to reach an agreement with them on any matters. We should maintain the party's unity when we negotiate with them. Based on this view, I made the remark as a general view. Please do not misunderstand what I have said.

[Dean of the press corps] We now conclude the news conference. Thank you very much.

Effect on MOF's 'Style' Viewed

OW1907132293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1255 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—An end to the 38-year-old dominance of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in Japanese politics may force the Ministry of Finance [MOF] to rethink its old style of dealing with politicians to get its policies realized. Under the decades of sole control by the LDP, the ministry developed such a cozy relationship with the governing party that the ministry usually compiled fiscal and monetary policies for LDP politicians only to enact them.

This simple pattern has ended, political observers say, forcing the ministry to build ties from scratch with the new parties. The ministry and new parties are already at odds over several fiscal policies.

For instance, the ministry intends to reduce the income tax, with the support of business circles as a means of economic stimulus, in exchange for a raise in the 3 percent consumption tax. But the chances are that a new government—either a coalition government between the LDP and opposition parties or non-LDP coalition—will avoid any kind of tax hikes to remain popular with the voters.

A likely reduction in the income tax might require the financing of a new issue of debt-covering bonds, a grim prospect given scant state coffers, a senior ministry official said.

Debt-financing bonds, distinguished from so-called construction bonds whose use is limited to financing public works by laws, have long been anathema for the ministry, whose top priority is balancing budgets.

After seeing the first revenue shortfall in the budget for the previous fiscal 1992, the ministry plans to be more tight-fisted this and next fiscal year, making it a sure bet that the ministry and the new government will clash over fiscal engineering.

Economic Bureaucrats on Consistency

OW1807165193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1643 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Economic bureaucrats said Monday [19 July] that their policies will be consistent or at least fundamentally unchanged despite the apparent demise of one-party rule that has existed in Japan since the end of World War II.

A senior Finance Ministry official said fiscal and monetary policies cannot be easily changed, no matter what kind of administration is formed. "We can't perform magic on what comes in and what goes out," he said, referring to government revenue and expenditures in an apparent warning about pressure for an income tax reduction as the ministry prepares to compile a fiscal 1994 budget plan.

But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it is the duty of public servants to do their best under given circumstances.

Tsutomu Tanaka, vice minister of the Economic Planning Agency, predicted that future policies will in principle remain little changed since the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) did better than expected during the campaign. Although it failed to keep a majority in the House of Representatives, the LDP remained by far the largest party in the chamber.

Hideaki Kumano, vice minister of international trade and industry, said the ministry can only do what is best for Japan based on its past experiences.

But a senior official of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications seemed to reflect the view of many as he noted that negotiations must now be conducted with various parties rather than just the LDP.

Table Lists Votes Won by Parties

OW1807182893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1813 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Following is the table of votes won by parties in the general election for the House of Representatives as of 2:45 A.M. Monday [1745 GMT 18 July]:

Parties	Number of Votes	Share (pc)	Share in 1990 (pc)
LDP [Liberal Democratic Party]	22,999,191	36.62	46.14
SDP [Social Democratic Party]	9,687,242	15.43	24.39
Komeito	5,113,457	8.14	7.98
Shinseito	6,341,073	10.10	—
JCP [Japanese Communist Party]	4,834,150	7.70	7.96
DSP [Democratic Socialist Party]	2,205,682	3.51	4.84
Sakigake (Harbinger)	1,658,097	2.64	—
USDP [United Socialist Democratic Party] (Shaminren)	461,169	0.73	0.86
JNP [Japanese New Party]	5,053,402	8.05	—
Other Minor Parties	143,485	0.23	0.52
Independents	4,303,996	6.85	7.32
Total	62,800,944	100.00	100.00

Table of LDP Factional Strength

OW1807183693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1819 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Following is the table of new factional strength in the Liberal Democratic Party in both houses of the Diet:

Factions	House of Representatives	House of Councillors	Total
Mitsuzuka	55	18	73
Miyazawa	55	14	69
Watanabe	48	19	67
Obuchi	29	33	62
Komoto	21	6	27
Kato group	5	5	10
Nonaffiliated	10		14
Total	223	99	322

Yamaguchi on Anti-LDP Coalition

OW1907114193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1017 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Former Labor Minister Toshio Yamaguchi proposed Monday [19 July] that opposition and new conservative parties back either

Japan New Party leader Morihiro Hosokawa or Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) chief Tsutomu Hata for the premiership.

In a speech at a Tokyo hotel, Yamaguchi said Hosokawa, a former Kumamoto governor, is "a half-step ahead" of Hata in the potential race for the premiership because Hosokawa formed his party more than one year before Hata did. Yamaguchi called for all parties except the Japanese Communist Party to forge a coalition against the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

In Sunday's election, Yamaguchi, a former LDP member running as an independent, was the top vote getter in Saitama Prefecture's No. 2 Constituency, collecting 153,148 votes.

Yamaguchi warned, "the LDP possesses the power to gain 300 seats" in the next election for the House of Representatives. He called on the JNP and Sakigake (Harbinger), an LDP breakaway party, to join in an anti-LDP coalition.

Hata Urges LDP To Relinquish Power

OW1807183493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1824 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The head of new conservative party Shinseito on Monday [19 July] called for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to give up its grip on power. Tsutomu Hata said the Japanese people opted for a non-LDP coalition government as a way of promoting "drastic political reforms" in Japan.

At a news conference, Hata also said the results of Sunday's general election represent national rejection of a continuation of the LDP's rein which started in 1955.

The LDP should gracefully step down in line with "the regular procedures of constitutional government," said Hata, who formed Shinseito last month after the ruling conservative party split in a fight over political reforms.

In the House of Representatives election, the LDP won 223 of the 511 seats at stake, falling short not only of the 256 seats needed for a simple majority but also of its preelection strength of 227.

Hata indirectly urged two new conservative parties—the Japan New Party (JNP) and Sakigake (Harbinger)—to join political forces with Shinseito in order to form a grand coalition party to replace the LDP.

Shinseito and the two new parties will be able to cooperate because they have something in common in areas such as political and administrative reforms, Hata said. It will be impossible to live up to the expectations of the Japanese people if they stick to policy differences, he said.

During the same news conference, Ichiro Ozawa, Shinseito's another major figure, declined to comment on whether he was "purified" following his election. Ozawa has been under fire for his alleged role in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-gangster scandal.

Ozawa, a former top aide to scandal-ridden former LDP power broker Shin Kanemaru, said all he has in mind at present is promoting political reforms in Japan through Shinseito, which won 55 seats.

Hiraiwa Urges LDP-Led Government

OW1907114393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0940 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—A prominent business leader said Monday he wants the Liberal Democratic Party to play a central role in forming a new government, despite its failure to win a majority in the powerful lower house in Sunday's general election.

Speaking at a press conference, Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said he hopes the LDP will stabilize politics in cooperation with other conservative parties. "No political vacuum should be allowed," Hiraiwa said.

Asked about the possibility of a coalition government by non-LDP parties, Hiraiwa said the possibility is very slim because they are wide apart on policies.

Hiraiwa also said that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa should not resign right now to take responsibility for the election results. "He is responsible for the split of the LDP, but the election results should be appreciated," Hiraiwa said, adding that "what he should do first, rather than resign, is prevent the LDP from falling into confusion."

Hiraiwa reiterated the business community will review its current policy of giving political donations solely to the LDP, but said that more time is needed to decide whether to give money to new conservative parties such as the Japan New Party, Sakigake (Harbinger) and Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party). "As for Shinseito, I don't know where they are going, so we can't distribute our money yet," he said.

Next Prime Minister Still Mystery

OW1807184793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1836 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The likely identity of Japan's next prime minister remained a mystery Sunday [18 July] in the wake of the poor showing of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the rise of new conservative parties in the general election.

Since the LDP failed to attain a majority in the 511-seat House of Representatives, no party alone has enough votes to decide who will head the next government. If no candidate can win a majority at a special Diet session which must be convened within 30 days of the election, the two top vote getters in the first ballot compete in a runoff election.

It is unclear who the LDP will field as a candidate since Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama hinted that incumbent Kiichi Miyazawa will resign as LDP president. The party presidency once automatically carried the premiership because of the LDP's former dominance in the lower house.

Morihiro Hosokawa, leader of the Japan New Party (JNP), and Masayoshi Takemura, head of Sakigake (Harbinger), expressed caution about the issue at separate news conferences. The two new conservative parties, which have agreed to form a joint parliamentary group and may eventually merge, could hold the key to choosing a prime minister.

Hosokawa said someone from one of the two parties will run in the first round election for premier. In the eventuality of a runoff election, Hosokawa said he will make a decision on who to support after consulting parliamentary members of the JNP and Sakigake.

Takemura also said he wants to deal with the issue prudently because the two parties must make a crucial choice.

Tsutomu Hata, leader of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), said his party, another new conservative force, will ask the JNP and Sakigake to join a coalition government he plans to form with four other opposition parties.

Meanwhile, Tetsuzo Fuwa, presidium chairman of the Japanese Communist Party, said he will never support candidates of other parties in an election for prime minister.

JNP, Harbinger Party Unify

OW1907074793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0709 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Leaders of two new conservative parties—the Japan New Party (JNP) and Sakigake (Harbinger Party)—decided Monday [19 July] to call their unified parliamentary group in the Diet "Sakigake-JNP," officials of the parties said. JNP leader Morihiro Hosokawa and Sakigake Chief Masayoshi Takemura made the decision during a meeting in a Tokyo Hotel.

The decision followed an agreement on July 10 to form the group in the Diet.

Hosokawa and Takemura agreed to hold another meeting by this weekend to decide whether the two parties will participate in a coalition with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), with opposition parties or be independent from the two forces, the officials said.

Before the weekend meeting, the officials said, both parties will hold separate intraparty talks on the basis of an agreement they made during the election campaign not to join forces with either the LDP or the opposition parties.

The two parties are almost certain to play a pivotal role if a runoff election is needed to choose a new prime minister. A runoff election would be held if no candidate succeeds in gaining a majority of votes in the 511-member House of Representatives.

On June 27, five opposition parties—the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Komeito, the United Social Democratic Party (USDP), Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP)—agreed to try to form a coalition government. They hold a total of 195 seats in the new lower house.

In the Sunday poll, the JNP won 35 seats and Sakigake 13 seats, while the LDP captured 223, the SDP 70, Shinseito 55, Komeito 51, the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) 15, the DSP 15, the USDP 4, and independents 30.

Hosokawa formed the JNP in May of last year. Takemura and nine colleagues formed Sakigake on June 21, three days after they quit the LDP to protest the LDP leadership's failure to get political reforms passed through the Diet.

Shinseito, SDP Criticized

OW1907153793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1502 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The main opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) and Shinseito came under criticism from other party leaders Monday [19 July] for failing to clarify their supposed bid to form a coalition.

Japan New Party (JNP) leader Morihiro Hosokawa said at a television debate organized by Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) he remains reluctant to form a coalition with opposition parties that include the socialists due to the SDP's opposition to Japanese participation in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

"I would find it hard to form a coalition with the SDP as I am still haunted by the strong impression of the socialists conducting their 'ox-walk' filibuster to scuttle a bill proposing Japanese participation in peacekeeping operations," he said.

SDP Chairman Sadao Yamahana defended his party's stance of seeking to form a non-Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) coalition with Shinseito and three other parties, saying, "We will honor policy agreements within the framework of the coalition, while we will keep our party's own stance on defense and other policies."

Shinseito leader Tsutomu Hata, a defector from the dominant LDP, said his party feels a tax hike is necessary to help finance the nation's infrastructure projects. Hata said, "How could we progress without a tax increase at a time when we face the need to strengthen our social infrastructure (such as building facilities for the elderly) amid the rapidly aging society?"

LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama told the NHK program voters should not overlook the large differences in security policies between Shinseito and the socialists, saying, "The basic policy platform, including defense, is an area where Japan might not be able to fix the damage if it made a mistake."

In a nationwide poll, as part of the NHK program, only 3 percent favored an independent LDP government, 36 percent supported an LDP- led coaliton and 59 percent backed a non-LDP coalition.

Results Mark 'End' of LDP Monopoly

OW1907022393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0158 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Japan's four major daily newspapers on Monday [19 July] said in editorials that the results of Sunday's general election marked a change in the nation's political structure—the end of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] 38-year monopoly on power, the advance of three newly established conservative political parties and the crushing defeat of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan] [SDPJ].

The dailies—the ASAHI SHIMBUN, the MAINICHI SHIMBUN, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN and the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN—said Sunday's election showed that the Japanese people have rejected traditional money politics and have indicated their desire for "new politics."

The leading business daily NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said, "it is impossible to reverse the change of political structure in Japan toward eatablishing a post-cold war new international order."

The ASAHI SHIMBUN called for the resignation of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

"From the people's point of view, the Miyazawa cabinet, which earlier suffered a no-confidence vote in the Diet, has now failed to secure the majority in the general election," the newspaper said. "He would be sensible to resign."

The ASAHI also urged the LDP to step down from the power. "Isn't it the common practice of constitutional government for the ruling party to go out of power if the party fails to secure the majority in the Diet?" the ASAHI said.

In addition, the daily demanded that opposition parties not accept the LDP's invitation to set up a coalition government.

A similar view was expressed in the MAINICHI SHIMBUN's editorial.

"The LDP apparently lost its authority and foundation as the ruling party...in the election," the editorial said. "The LDP should go out of power following the common rule of constituent government."

Meanwhile, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN said there "should be no vacuum for even a moment in the nation's politics, which faces a mountain of problems awaiting solutions as quickly as possible."

As for postelection politics, the MAINICHI said that even if the LDP remains in power as a minority single-party cabinet, "they have to respect the intentions of opposition parties as much as possible."

The NIHON KEIZAI stressed, "the biggest challege for a new government, either a coalition government centering the LDP or a non-LDP coalition, is to accomplish their election promise—political reforms."

The YOMIURI said the biggest reason for the crushing defeat of the SDPJ may be the fact that the party "could not get away from its ideology-oriented setup" causing many voters to "judge the SDPJ as unable to reform itself."

The ASAHI suggested that the SDPJ may be out of step with times, while the MAINICHI said a series of its own surveys has shown that the Japanese people have already given up on the SDPJ.

"The SDPJ brought on its own misfortunes by neglecting party reforms," the MAINICHI editorial said. The NIHON KEIZAI said, "it is not too much to say that the fatal defeat of the SDPJ was a letter of separation from voters."

In their editorials, the dailies asked each of the three new parties—Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), Sakigake (Harbinger) and the Japan New Party—to make clear their policies as soon as possible.

Also, the YOMIURI expressed concern over Sunday's poor voter turnout, the lowest since the end of World War II.

"We are concerned about reported declines in interest in elections among people in their 20's," the YOMIURI said in its editorial. "What will become of the nation's future if young people who are to bear Japan on their shoulders in the 21st century are indifferent to politics?"

Result 'Unlikely' To Affect Security

OW1907095793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0903 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—The setback for the dominant Liberal Democratic Party in Sunday's [18 July] general election is unlikely to affect Japan's security, given the policies of two of the three new conservative parties, a top defense official said Monday.

Shigeru Hatakeyama, vice minister of the Defense Agency, told a news conference that Japan's security will not be undermined, as both Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) and Sakigake (Harbinger) appear to have identical defense policies to that of the LDP.

"Even if they are different parties, this will not have an adverse effect (on defense policy deliberations) in the Diet," Hatakeyama said. "If we add together the numbers of seats of the LDP, Shinseito and Sakigake, it exceeds 290," he said.

Shinseito and Sakigake made an impressive debut in the House of Representatives election by garnering 55 and 13 seats, respectively.

However, Hatakeyama stopped short of commenting on the defense policies of the Japan New Party, led by former Kumamoto Prefecture Governor Morihiro Hosokawa, which also had a successful Lower House electoral debut in winning 35 seats.

Hosokawa once urged the government to form a corps of civilians—but not self-defense forces troops—to meet calls from the international community for Japanese peacekeepers to be sent to Cambodia to assist with the U.N. Forces there. Last year, Japan dispatched a contingent of SDF troops to contribute to the operations of the United Nations transitional authority in Cambodia.

550 Election Violation Cases Probed

OW1907054693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0523 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—Police said Monday they investigated about 550 alleged violations of election laws before and during Sunday's general election for the House of Representatives. The National Police Agency said the allegations included vote buying, door-to-door vote canvassing, illegal distribution of pamphlets and other banned practices.

Police searched 359 places including 23 election offices for evidence, officials said.

Some 2,000 people were asked to appear voluntarily at police stations for questioning, and 10 were to be arrested, they said. Ten others had already been arrested for allegedly engaging in illegal election practices after polling stations closed Sunday evening. In 1990, there were six arrests within the same period.

As of Sunday evening, police issued cautions for 1,991 minor offenses of election laws, only about half of the number of cases reported at the previous lower house election in 1990.

Supreme Court Justices Win 'Trust'

OW1907024393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0209 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 19 KYODO—All of Japan's nine Supreme Court justices up for public review in Sunday's [18 July] general election won the people's trust, the government said Monday. Japan's Constitution mandates that voters pass their judgment on the nation's highest judicial organization.

The Constitution stipulates, "the appointment of the justices of the Supreme Court shall be reviewed by the people at the first general election of members of the House of Representatives following their appointment, and shall be reviewed again at the first general election of members of the House of Representatives after a lapse of 10 years."

Japan has 15 Supreme Court justices. The other six won the people's trust in 1990's general election.

'Gang Leader' Sentenced for Smuggling Chinese

OW1607040093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0258 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Kagoshima, July 16 KYODO—The Kagoshima District Court on Friday [16 July] sentenced a gang leader to 18 months in prison for helping 144 Chinese enter Japan illegally through a Kagoshima port in early April. Sentenced was Jun Sasaki, 44, head of a yakuza [organized crime] group in Hokkaido Prefecture affiliated with the country's largest underground syndicate Yamaguchi-gumi.

Three others, including the captain of the fishing boat transporting the Chinese to southern Japan, were given suspended sentences.

In handing down the ruling, presiding judge Tastumi [as received] Wakasugi said Sasaki's crime was serious because he played a major role in the premeditated and systematized smuggling scheme in an attempt to earn money.

The ruling said Sasaki and the three other defendants put the Chinese stowaways aboard the salmon fishing vessel No. 38 Nagato Maru in the East China Sea on April 1 and tried to smuggle them into Japan through Akune port in Kagoshima. Police and Maritime Safety Agency officials, however, detained the Chinese off Akune on April 3 and later arrested the defendants.

Individually Owned Manufacturers' Earnings Fall

OW1607083393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0812 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Tokyo, July 16 KYODO—Mirroring the economic slump, both sales and operating profit by individually owned manufacturers fell last fiscal year for the first time in six years, the government said Friday [16 July].

The Management and Coordination Agency said the average manufacturer earned 17.2 million yen in sales for fiscal 1992 that ended March 31, down 4.4 percent from the previous year. Manufacturers' operating profit averaged 5.43 million yen, down 10.5 percent, it said.

The findings are based on a survey of 2,800 individual businesses nationwide. The survey was taken at the end of March.

Sales by individual retailers, wholesalers and restaurant owners edged up 1.1 percent to an average 24.34 million yen, while those by services inched up 1.3 percent to 8.12 million yen.

Operating profit was up 3.2 percent to an average 4.46 million yen for retailers, wholesalers, and restaurants, and up 4.2 percent to 3.67 million yen for services.

The survey also found that only 6.4 percent of those surveyed expect sales to increase in the current fiscal year, reflecting pessimism among small businesses.

It also showed that 35.6 percent expect sales to decline, up 6.3 percentage points from the previous survey one year ago.

North Korea

Delegate: U.S. Talks Anticipated To Resume 19 Jul

SK1707032793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0315 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Talks between the DPRK and the United States were held at the DPRK mission in Geneva on 16 July. After the talks, First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu, head of our country's delegation, answered reporters' questions on the talks.

The delegation head noted: The talks between the two countries' delegations were sincerely [chinjihage] held for a long time. The two sides agreed to meet again after reporting the questions discussed in the talks to each side's respective government.

He added that he anticipated that the talks will resume on 19 July.

South's Appraisal of Clinton Visit 'Sycophantic'

SK1707044693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 17 Jul 93

["NODONG SINMUN on Utterances of S. Korean Ruler"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 17 (KCNA)—The South Korean ruler on July 12 met a "delegation of troops to be dispatched to Somalia" and blared that "the appearance" of South Korea has changed with the U.S. President's visit to South Korea and, since his "regime" is a "civilian government," "the U.S. view of South Korea has changed."

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says this reminds people of a prostitute boastful of her "chastity."

The analyst notes:

Anyone who knows what happened in Seoul during the U.S. President's South Korean tour must think that the new ruler of South Korea is brazen-faced.

While in Seoul, the U.S. President spent a night at the U.S. Embassy, not at the hotel offered by the South Korean authorities. This is enough to tell what the "appearance" of South Korea is to the United States.

The South Korean authorities, crawling on all fours before the U.S. President, entreated him to withdraw the "program of the reduction of the U.S. Forces" in South Korea and to take "reprisals" and "sanctions" against their fellow countrymen in the North under the pretext of its "nuclear threat." This is, indeed, an unprecedented sycophantic, treacherous diplomacy. Nevertheless, the South Korean ruler boasted of this wretched "appearance" of South Korea.

The South Korean authorities' claim that the "civilian government" is "loved by the people" is also a naked lie.

Though the "regime" has been replaced by another in South Korea, nothing has changed but the nameplate.

They have to dispatch troops to other country to violate its dignity on the order of their master, with their own sovereignty totally trampled upon. This cannot be a thing to be bragged of.

South's Boasting of Appearance 'Self-Conceit'

SK1707065893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0031 GMT 17 Jul 93

[NODONG SINMUN 17 July commentary: "Prostitute's Self-Conceit of Appearance"]

[Text] No matter how earnestly a prostitute may advertise her chastity, she will only be the laughing-stock of the people. The South Korean ruler's self-conceit on South Korea's appearance, revealed during his meeting with a delegation of troops to be dispatched to Somalia on 12 July, is the same as a prostitute's remarks.

According to a report, he stated that the U.S. President's South Korean tour shows how the appearance of South Korea has changed.

He said that because his regime is a civilian government loved by the people, the United States view of South Korea has also changed.

Anyone who knows what happened in Seoul during the U.S. President's South Korean tour must think that the new ruler of South Korea is brazen-faced.

While in Seoul, the U.S. President spent a night at the home of the U.S. ambassador, refusing the hotel offered by the South Korean authorities. This is indeed an act of making little of his stooges. Disgrace, caused by a guest who did not stay in the home of his host but in another's, is rare. This is enough of a statement on South Korea's appearance.

Moreover, the South Korean authorities crawled on all fours before the U.S. President to entreat him to withdraw the program to reduce U.S. Forces in South Korea and to take reprisals and sanctions against their fellow countrymen in the North under the pretext of its nuclear threat. This means that they are attempting to maintain power with the support of a big country which is extended at the price of offering sacrifice to the big country. In fact, this is diplomacy of unprecedented disgrace and treachery.

Nevertheless, the South Korean ruler boasted of South Korea's appearance. The value of such appearance is even less than that of a dog.

The claim that the civilian government is loved by the people is also a naked lie.

Though the regime has been replaced by another in South Korea, nothing has changed but the nameplate. Oppressive organizations are still operated and evil laws are still effective. Suppression of the people by the civilian government is more serious than the Sixth Republic. Therefore, the new words, "the same rascals" and "civilian government fascists," spread among the South Korean people.

The incumbent rulers, while clamoring that they cannot shake hands with fellow countrymen who held out their hands for great national unity and reunification, are dancing to the tune of aggressive foreign forces. Their filthy act is not less than that of their predecessors.

They have to dispatch troops to another country to violate its dignity on the order of their master, with their own sovereignty totally trampled upon. This cannot be a thing to be bragged of.

The boasting of appearance by a political prostitute is the same as the act of boasting of her chastity by a prostitute.

WPK Delegation Departs for Meeting in Cuba

SK1607111893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 16 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] led by Pak Kyong-son, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, left here to attend a meeting of left political parties in Latin America and Caribbean region to be held in Cuba.

It was seen off at the airport by Kim Hyong-u, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, and Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador to Korea.

Army Unit Meeting Marks 1953 Cuban Uprising

SK1707042893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 17 (KCNA)—A meeting for solidarity with the Cuban people was held at a unit of the Korean People's Army Friday on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the July 26 armed uprising of the Cuban people.

Invited to the meeting were Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and his embassy officials. Speeches were made at the meeting.

Venezuelan Party Leaders Send Support Messages

SK1907064693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 19 Jul 93

["Solidarity Messages to Comrade Kim Chong-il From Venezuelan Party Leaders"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 19 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received solidarity messages from Guillermo Garcia Ponce, general secretary of "New Alternative" of Venezuela, and General Secretary Adelso Gonzalez Urdaneta and International Secretary Emil Guevara of the People's Electoral Movement of Venezuela in the month of international solidarity with the Korean people.

Recalling that the United States started a war of aggression for the purpose of trampling underfoot the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 1950 only to suffer a bitter defeat in 1953 by the Korean people, they in the messages express solidarity and support for the Korean people.

They hope that the relations existing between their parties and the Workers' Party of Korea and between the peoples of the two countries will continue to develop and strengthen.

Pannational Veterans Rallies Plan Announced

SK1807230793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2110 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Statement by the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) Central Committee]

[Text] The WPK Central Committee and the party Central Military Commission decided to hold pannational rallies of old veterans [nobyong] on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of victory in the Great Fatherland Liberation War. Today the entire party, the whole army and all the people are vigorously advancing along the road of socialism under the banner of the chuche idea.

The rallies will be held simultaneously in the central area, each province, city, county and complex from 23 to 25 July 1993.

The old veterans across the country, who participated in the glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary war and the Great Fatherland Liberation War by upholding the wise leadership of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and who made immortal achievements for the fatherland and people by repelling the imperialist aggression forces, will participate in the rallies.

The pannational old veterans rallies will be historic rallies to demonstrate our people's firm faith and strong will to further glorify loyalty to the party and the leader and the tradition of single-hearted unity displayed by our veterans in the long arduous struggle to defend the nation's independence and sovereignty and to safeguard revolutionary gains. The rallies will also demonstrate our people's will to carry on to completion the chuche revolutionary cause by highly displaying the superiority and might of socialism of our own style.

The WPK Central Committee and the party Central Military Commission expressed the firm belief that all party members and workers, who are registering new innovations and upsurge in all domains of revolution and construction by upholding the party Central Committee's slogans on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of war victory and by vigorously waging the movement to create the speed of general march of our-style socialism, will more firmly unite with the party and the leader through the forthcoming rallies and will attain a greater victory in the sacred struggle for reunification and independence of the nation and for accomplishment of socialist cause.

Communique on Convening War Veterans' Conference

SK1907044693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 19 (KCNA)—A communique of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] on convening the National Conference of War Veterans was published.

The communique said:

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the party Central Military Commission decided to convene a National Conference of War Veterans on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Great Fatherland Liberation War at a time when the whole party, the entire Army and people are vigorously advancing along the road of socialism under the banner of the chuche idea.

The conference will take place simultaneously in the capital, provincial seats and other cities and county seats and at complexes from July 23 to 25, 1993.

It will be attended by war veterans across the country who repulsed the imperialist aggression forces and performed immortal feats before the country and the people by taking part in the glorious anti-Japanese revolutinary war and the Great Fatherland Liberation War under the wise guidance of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

It will be a historical conference demonstrating the unshakable conviction and strong will of our people to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche to the last by adding shine to the loyalty to the party and the leader and the tradition of singlehearted unity displayed by our war veterans in the protracted and arduous struggle to defend the independence of the country and the sovereignty of the nation and safeguard the gains of the revolution and giving full play to the advantages and might of socialism of our style.

The WPK Central Committee and the party Central Military Commission expressed the belief that the entire party members and other working people who are effecting new innovations and upswings in all domains of the revolution and construction through a powerful campaign to create the "speed of general advance of our style socialism" in hearty response to the calls of the party Central Committee on the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war will win a greater victory in the sacred struggle to accomplish the reunification and independence of the country and the cause of socialism, united closer around the party and the leader with the conference as an occasion.

Crops 'Doing Well' Throughout Countryside

SK1607151993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Pyongyang, July 16 (KCNA)—Crops are ruling good on Yonbaek and Yoltusamcholli plains, western granaries, as on other plains of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The number of rice stalks per pyong amounts to 1,700 on an average and 2,000 at maximum in any fields of co-op farms in Paechon, Yonan and Chongdan Counties of South Hwanghae Province covering Yonbaek plain and in Mundok and Sukchon Counties of South Pyongan Province that spread in Yoltusamcholli plain.

More rice stalks are seen on Ohyon, Sojong and Phungchon co-op farms of Yonan County, Chongjong, Simphyong and Hwasan co-op farms of Chongdan County and Kumsong and other co-op farms of Paechon County.

Maize is also doing well.

An ear of maize as big as a forearm is seen on each sturdy stalk.

Agricultural workers are now manuring and tending crops on a scientific and technical basis to bring in a bumper harvest.

KCNA Reviews 17 Jul Pyongyang Press

SK1707050093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 17 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a solidarity message to the great leader President Kim Il-song from Mokdad M'hamed, secretary general of the Union of Forces for the Progress of Algeria, supporting "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" put forward by President Kim Il-song.

NODONG SINMUN prints a message of greetings to President Kim Il-song from Ilyas Harawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the Fatherland Liberation War.

Papers inform the readers that immortal classical works of President Kim Il-song have been disseminated and studied in different countries.

NODONG SINMUN conveys the response of the world political and press circles to "non-aligned information services must contribute to the people's cause of independence", a work of President Kim Il-song.

The paper conveys words of figures of different countries praising the respected leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as great leaders of independent cause.

The Rwandan committee for supporting Korea's reunification published a special issue of the bulletin "Comrade Kim Chong-il, military genius", says the press.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article dealing with the activities of President Kim Il-song in July 1943 when the anti-Japanese armed struggle was raging, in the northern area of Korea to accelerate the preparations for the last decisive battle with the Japanese imperialists.

Remaining in the limelight of papers are reports about the phenomenal achievements reported by working people across the country on the threshold of the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War and crops ruling good in the countryside.

It is reported in the press that the Japan headquarters of the National Alliance for the country's reunification began an intensive campaign for the opening of the 4th pan-national rally and various circles of South Korea are demanding the release of all the long-term prisoners who refuse to be converted.

In a semi-monthly review, NODONG SINMUN denounces the South Korean ruling quarters for launching a malicious anti-communist confrontation campaign around Bill Clinton's South Korean tour.

Commenting on the words of the South Korean ruler boasting of the change of "appearance" of South Korea, the paper compared him with a prostitute boasting of "chastity".

According to the press, functions took place in different countries to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the Fatherland Liberation War and world public denounced the outrageous utterances of the U.S. President against the DPRK. NODONG SINMUN carries news that the Palestine Liberation Organization denounced the U.S. proposal on the problem of autonomy, and an anti-U.S. demonstration was held in Cuba. It deals with achievements of the Chinese working people in economic construction.

Papers observe the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Denmark.

An article of NODONG SINMUN hits at the nuclear armament of Japan that has entered a dangerous stage.

Reviews 19 Jul NODONG SINMUN

SK1907064593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang, July 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a message of greetings to President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from Seychellois President France Albert Rene on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Korean people's victory in the war, and news that he received letters from different countries in the current month of international solidarity with the Korean people.

The paper reports that President Kim Il-song received a message from Portuguese President Mario Soares replying to his greetings on day of Portugal.

Seen in the daily is a communique of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] announcing that the WPK Central Committee and the Party Central Military Commission decided to convene a national conference of war veterans on the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Great Fatherland Liberation War.

Given in the paper is an account of the arrival in Pyongyang of relay groups to convey letters of loyalty to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on the day of victory in the war.

An article of the paper tells that President Kim Il-song put forward a plan of postwar rehabilitation and reconstruction and pushed ahead with its preparations with foresight in the thick of war. The paper conveys what foreigners said after visiting the Paeksong revolutionary site in South Pyongan Province where Kim Il-song University was situated during the war.

The WPK Central Committee sent a message of greetings to Victor Granda upon his election as general secretary of the C.C., the Socialist Party of Ecuador, reports the paper.

The daily carries news of the growth of the production of iron and steel, cement and coal on the threshold of the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war.

The Seychellois president met with the Korean ambassador to his country, says the paper.

Given in the daily are world public voices supporting the Korean people's just cause of national reunification.

South Korean news of the paper includes reports that opposition "National Assemblymen" protested against the U.S. pressure for rice market opening and the Democratic Party formed an investigation committee for a probe into the case of kidnapping Kim Tae-chung.

In a commentary the paper denounces the South Korean puppets trying to stifle the labour movement itself, alleging that the current workers' strikes were manipulated by "a revolutionary force" behind the scene.

It runs an article exposing the massacres committed by the South Korean puppet army during the war.

Conveyed in the paper is the foreign public reaction to the DPRK-U.S. talks.

The international news of the paper includes reports that Fidel Castro called for unity of Latin America and solidarity with Cuba, the Mozambican president elaborated on the peace process in the country, the Palestinian president called for an end to Israel's blockade of the Palestinians in the occupied lands, the Ethiopian president called for a peaceful solution of disputes on the continent and the Malaysian prime minister rejected the U.S. President's call to convene a summit of the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation organization.

An article of the paper analyses contradictions and confrontation growing acute among the capitalist countries.

South Korea

U.S., DPRK Chief Delegates on 16 Jul Talks

SK1607230993 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2215 GMT 16 Jul 93

[By Geneva-based correspondents Yi Pyong-sun and Chi Chong-hak]

[Text] North Korea and the United States held the second contact of the second round of their high-level talks to solve the nuclear issue but failed to reach a conclusion. Thus, it became unclear whether the third contact slated for Monday will be held.

When the meeting ended at 0445 [1945 GMT 16 July], Robert Gallucci, chief delegate of the U.S. side, said that he would decide on the future meeting schedule after discussing with the Washington authorities. He hinted at the uncertainty of holding the scheduled third contact by saying that he hoped the third contact would be held on Monday.

Kang Sok-chu, chief delegate of North Korea, said that he cannot anticipate when the third contact will be held until he discusses it with Pyongyang, thus hinting that an in-depth exchange of opinions on certain important questions was held between the two sides.

The second contact between North Korea and the United States ran three hours and forty-five minutes longer than scheduled.

Before the meeting started, Robert Gallucci confirmed to reporters that the United States and North Korea would hold another contact on 19 July, by saying that he hoped to announce a statement with substantial content on Monday.

DPRK Reportedly Asked U.S. Help With Reactor

SK1907032493 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Jul 93 p 2

[Text] North Korea has reportedly sought help from the United States to convert its atomic power plant system from the present one using gas-cooled reactors to a more advanced system using light-water reactors during talks with the United States in Geneva Friday [16 July].

Wire reports from Geneva said the disagreement over the pace of the conversions was a main reason for the sudden backtracking in the talks Friday afternoon.

Whether the two sides will produce agreements on this issue is yet to be seen.

The conversion, if agreed, means a complete change in the North Korean nuclear program. But due to the huge amount of money and long construction period involved, the two sides are not likely to make easy headway on this relatively new topic.

It is not the first time, however, that the Communist country stated such an intention. When Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), visited Pyongyang in May, 1992, he was informed by North Koreans of their intention to develop light-water reactor technology.

South Korea and other countries did not give much weight to the North Korean statement at that time. To develop a new nuclear power program in North Korea to replace the current, high risk, system is not considered an immediate solution, although it can be a long-term solution.

South Korea, during nuclear talks with the North, already expressed its willingness to help import the new technology if Pyongyang give up its current nuclear program.

Nuclear energy programs using light-water reactors are preferred for nuclear power generation in most countries because there is less chance of nuclear weapons production.

Most of the nuclear reactors in South Korea belong to this category.

North Korea say the nuclear reactors they are operating or building are indigenously designed. These old-fashioned gas-cooled reactors use natural uranium as fuel and graphite as a moderator.

However, South Korean experts say North Korea imported this technology from the Soviet Union in the 1960s. Therefore, these North Korean reactors involve the same high possibility of nuclear hazards as the reactors built during the former Soviet Union did.

They also lag far behind the reactors indigenous to western countries in economic terms.

IAEA inspectors, for these reasons, earlier concluded that the North Korean claim that its current nuclear program is peacefully oriented does not make sense.

Because the North Korean reactors, use natural uranium as fuel, and North Korea produces natural uranium, there is no way to check how much fuel has been consumed.

Even in western countries, heavy-water reactors using natural uranium as fuel, are under much tighter scrutiny of the IAEA because of the higher risks involved.

Spent fuel can also be easily diverted, as fuel exchange occurs every day.

Unlike these systems, light-water reactors use enriched uranium as fuel. To change fuel, operation of these reactors must be halted.

Spent fuel can be reprocessed to be used again as fuel or to provide plutonium necessary for atomic bomb production.

But, it cost a huge amount of money to build these reactors. The Korea Power Electric Corp. (KEPCO), for example, spent 1,717.9 billion won (some $2.1 billion) to build two light-water reactors in Kori in southeastern Korea, from 1974 to 1986. Moreover, it usually took six or eight years to build a reactor in the South.

Senior Official: U.S.-DPRK Talks in 'Delicate Stage'

SK1707031893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0309 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 17 (YONHAP)—A senior South Korean Foreign Ministry official refrained Saturday from going into detail about the outlook of the North Korea-U.S. high-level talks, saying that the talks have arrived at a "delicate stage." Chang Chae-ryong, director general of the American affairs bureau of the ministry, said, "the negotiations are now in a delicate stage. It is difficult for me to discuss it anything further since it might affect the talks."

Chang made the remarks after telling reporters that delegates of the two countries were to decide whether to have a third meeting after reporting the results of their second meeting to their respective governments.

"If a third meeting is to take place, the date is likely to be July 19," he said.

He said the United States and North Korea discussed a wide range of issues, including North Korea's acceptance of the International Atomic energy agency (IAEA)'s inspections of its nuclear facilities, at Friday's second meeting in Geneva but that it was premature to reveal further about the talks.

U.S., DPRK Await Instructions for 3d Day of Talks

SK1807225393 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2100 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Report by KBS ad hoc News Coverage Team from Geneva]

[Text] As of this morning, Korean local time, the United States and North Korea, after having held the second day of talks on the North Korean nuclear issue in Geneva, are awaiting instructions from Washington and Pyongyang in their home countries. The possibility of resuming the third round of talks remains unclear.

It has been learned that chief U.S. delegate Gallucci asked North Korean chief delegate Kang Sok-chu to inform the U.S. side of whether Kang will participate in today's third round of talks as soon as he receives final instruction from Pyongyang. Yet as of this morning, the North Korean side has apparently failed to receive any instruction from Pyongyang.

In this regard, a well-informed diplomatic official said that the possibility of resuming the third day of talks is 50-50. Noting it as his personal view, this official added that because neither side desires catastrophe [paguk], the talks may head toward resumption.

Meanwhile, the U.S. side stressed that in the event that the current Geneva talks end in rupture, the United States will not push for dialogue with North Korea any longer, thus showing skepticism for the current talks.

Official: DPRK Rejects IAEA Inspections

SK1807093193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0915 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 18 (YONHAP)—A highly-placed government official said on Sunday that during the second round of high-level talks with the United States in Geneva on Friday, the North Korea delegation had notified the U.S. delegation of its position against special International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of the two nuclear sites in Yongbyon. The notification was made at the instructions from the hard-liners in Pyongyang, added the official requesting anonymity.

In the morning session, the two sides made important progress and agreed to issue a joint document at the close of the third round of the talks on Monday. But in the afternoon session, North Korea suddenly changed its mind and refused to undergo special IAEA inspections, he said.

"The reason for North Korea's change of mind is not exactly known, but it appears that it was due to the instructions from Pyongyang's hard-liners," the official said.

"At the moment, it is quite uncertain whether Monday's meeting will be successful," added him. [sentence as received] "But because North Korea employs unpredictable negotiation tactics, you can't rule out the possibility that they will abruptly change their mind again and lead the meeting to a success."

Another government official said chief North Korea delegate Kang Sok-chu was so highly trusted by Kim Chong-il, son and heir-designate of President Kim Il-song, that he dirtectly reported the outcome of the talks with the United States to the junior Kim, suggesting that Kim Chong-il was among the hard-liners.

Han Wan-sang: U.S.-DPRK Talks Should Be Limited

SK1907110193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1051 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister and Unification Minister Han Wan-sang said on Monday that discussions at the on-going North Korea-U.S. talks in Geneva should be limited to North Korea's nuclear issues.

"I made it clear during my recent visit to Washington that the Geneva talks should be limited to the nuclear issue and should not take up any political matters," Han said.

Meeting with reporters at the Kimpo Airport upon his return home from a trip to the United States, Han said that in Washington he and U.S. officials reaffirmed their common basic stand over North Korea's nuclear issues.

He elaborated that the joint stand is that North Korea should completely return to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, accept inspections from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], and agree to mutual inter-Korean nuclear inspections.

Minister Han said he understands the third meeting of the U.S.- North Korea talks in Geneva would be held this evening.

"The third meeting will be a major turning point that would decide whether to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully or whether the U.N. Security Council should embark on sanctions against Pyongyang," he said.

He observed that if the Geneva talks fail, the world community would have no way but to unleash sanctions against North Korea.

"Still, our government hopes the issue will be settled in diplomatic and peaceful manners," Han said.

In the United States, the deputy premier said, he shared the view with U.S. officials that if North Korea accepts IAEA inspections, the South-North relations would improve much and so would relations between North Korea and the United States.

Opposes 'Strike' Against DPRK

SK1907013693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0101 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Washington, July 18 [date as received] (YONHAP)—Inter-Korean dialogue is a prerequisite to solving North Korea's nuclear problem, but Seoul and Washington must guard against Pyongyang's abuse of dialogue as a delaying tactic, South Korean Deputy Prime Minister and Unification Minister Han Wan-sang said here Saturday [17 July].

Han, meeting with U.S. Government leaders, including Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff, reiterated his government's opposition to a military strike against North Korea and confirmed Washington's commitment to solving the nuclear problem before any discussion of North Korea-U.S. relations improvement, South Korean officials said.

"We can't be sure about the effectiveness of economic sanctions against North Korea. We still hope to avoid a situation where the matter goes as far as economic sanctions by the U.N. Security Council," Han was quoted as saying.

The deputy premier was winding up a week-long stay in the United States, his first field trip here since taking office in February. He met with Deputy National Security Adviser Samuel Berger, Ambassador-Designate to Seoul James Laney, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs Charles Robb and other leaders while here.

Han warned against North Korea's delaying tactics, predicting that Pyongyang may try to make nuclear inspection a bilateral issue between the two Koreas instead of an international one or insist on negotiating only with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) without talking with the United States.

Han repeated that any political discussions on North Korea-U.S. relations development have to be held back until the nuclear question is completely answered, asking Washington to be firm in principle but flexible in strategy.

Officials said Tarnoff reaffirmed that no such political discussions would open without a solution of the nuclear issue.

NUB Minister Offers DPRK Economic Exchanges for Inspections

SK1707050693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0451 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Washington, July 16 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Han Wan-sang, on a visit here, said Friday the two Koreas could launch full-fledged economic exchanges and cooperation if North Korea agrees on rules for mutual nuclear inspections. Speaking at the Ninth American Region Symposium on the Korean question, Han said a South-North dialogue is a must for the resolution of the nuclear and other sentive issues pending between the two Koreas.

"If North Korea agrees on mutual inspection rules, we could promote full-fledged economic cooperation based on an institutional device to be worked out by the South-North joint economic commission," Han said.

He said that his government could allow South Korean businessmen's visits to North Korea if and when Pyongyang completely returns to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and agrees to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency of its undeclared facilities in Yongbyon.

The deputy premier, who concurrently serves as national unification minister, said that when North Korea gives up nuclear arms development and ensures nuclear transparency, he thinks Seoul could assist positively in North Korea's efforts to improve relations with Japan and the United States.

"Our government will continue to strive to resume the suspended inter-Korean dialogue to discuss substantial improvement of inter-Korean relations," said Han, adding: "I can say we have no intention of absorbing North Korea nor do we feel such a need."

'Strategy Session' Planned After U.S.-DPRK Talks

SK1907014393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0114 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (YONHAP)—As the U.S.-North Korean high-level talks in Geneva remained uncertain, the South Korean Government cancelled a strategy session Monday [19 July] of high-ranking officials concerned with unification issues.

Instead, the government has decided to hold the meeting as soon as the United States and North Korea wind up their Geneva talks on the North Korean nuclear issue, officials said.

The Seoul government had planned to discuss the results of the U.S.-North Korean talks and analyze the North Korean position in order to work out measures, including the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue.

Monday's meeting was to be chaired by Prime Minister Hwang In- song and attended by Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae, Director of the Agency for National Security Planning Chong Chong-uk, the senior presidential secretary for foreign and national security affairs, and other top officials.

China Urges: Stop Imposing Adjusted Tariffs

SK1907090193 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 19 Jul 93 p 2

[Text] The ROK's tariff adjustment system, which is applied to some imported agricultural products, has emerged as a trade issue between China and the ROK.

According to relevant authorities on 18 July, the Chinese Government has strongly demanded through various channels that the ROK Government abolish its tariff adjustment system.

China considers the ROK's tariff adjustment system to be a trade barrier. It informed the ROK that it might take retaliatory measures on ROK goods, which are imported by China, if the ROK does not abolish the system.

China brought this issue to an ROK-China trade meeting held in late April and demanded the abolition of the tariff adjustment system during Chinese Vice Premier Qian Qichen's visit to the ROK in late June 1993.

The ROK Government responded by expressing its position that it is difficult for the government to abolish the tariff adjustment system because its application is not limited to specific countries' goods.

The government, however, has decided to consider excluding acorns, carrots, and some other items from the list of 14 import items, on which adjusted tariffs are supposed to be imposed until the end of this year.

According to the customs tariff law, it is possible for the government to impose a 100 percent duty, at most, on some specific agricultural products in order to prevent domestic farmers from suffering damage caused by simultaneous imports of a large amount of several specific agricultural products.

Since 11 May 1992, the government has imposed adjusted tariffs ranging from 51 to 100 percent on 14 import items including bracken, acorns, dried radish slices, mudfish, sea bream, and toothpicks.

In addition, applying the regulations on tariff adjustment, the government raised tariff rates for six items—such as ganoderma lucidum, dried green onion, dried carrot, brown seaweed, and mixed seasonings—by 50 to 70 percent on 1 April 1993.

Seoul, Russia Plan Maritime Talks in Moscow

SK1907075693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0552 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 19 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia open maritime talks in Moscow this week and the main debate is over allowing each other's vessels to sail on to third ports, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Moscow demands that ships be allowed to continue on to third countries after calling at each other's ports, but

Seoul opposes this as it fears that Russia's cheap labor and low transport costs will work against Korea.

Seoul insists on attaching the third-port clause in an appendix instead of putting it in the main agreement to have private transport companies determine the loading share on a case-by-case basis.

Moscow demands that the clause be in the main agreement.

Hong Chung-pyo, director-general of International Trade, leads the talks, scheduled for July 21-22. O.V. Bozhrikov, chief of International Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Transport, is his Russian counterpart.

DPRK Said Planning 'Large-Scale Celebrations' 27 Jul

SK1707021693 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Jul 93 p 2

[From the "News From the North" column by Naewoe Press]

[Text] With the 40th anniversary of the 1953 armistice of the Korean War (1950-53), July 27, approaching, North Koreans are preparing large-scale celebrations.

Calling the armistice day "the Day of the Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War," North Korea upgraded the day to a "national festival day" or "the second liberation day" early this year.

It was made at the instruction of Kim Chong-il, son and heir-designate of North Korean President Kim Il-song, according to the reports of MINJU CHOSUN, a North Korean government organ.

The junior Kim was quoted as saying that from this year on, "the Day of the Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War" would be celebrated as a national day and this should be made a tradition.

The day, as a result, has become equal to such national holidays in the North as the birthdays of the two Kims and the founding anniversaries of the North Korean government, Sept. 9, and the Workers' (Communist) Party, Oct. 10.

Pyongyang has formed preparatory committees for celebration of the 40th armistice anniversary at home and abroad.

One major project the committees are implementing is the construction of the "Tower of the Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War" on a 50,000 sq. meter area along the river in the capital city. The construction began June 30 last year.

Another event for the day is a "Relay for Delivering Letters of Loyalty."

North Korean local radio stations in Haeju and Kaesong reported that mass rallies to adopt the "letters of loyalty" have been held in over 20 cities since last month, and that the first runners bearing the letters had already embarked on the relay race. They are to arrive in Pyongyang July 27, where a large-scale commemorative ceremony is scheduled with the two Kims attending. The father and son are receive the letters from the racers.

Former Defense Officials Arrested in Yulgok Probe

SK1707122093 Seoul YONHAP in English 1210 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 17 (YONHAP)—The prosecution arrested four former top military officials and a corporate president Saturday on bribery charges involving the country's Yulgok (military modernization) project.

The prosecution, closing the book on months of breathtaking investigation, booked without detention eight business leaders including Chong Mong-ku, chairman of Hyundai Precision and Industry Co., but dropped charges on Former Presidential Secretary Kim Chong-hwi who is currently on extended stay in the United States.

Arrested for Former Defense Ministers Yi Chong-ku and Yi Sang-hun, ex-Air Force Chief of Staff Han Chu-sok and Former Chief of Naval Operations Kim Chol-u for accepting bribes and president of Haksan Co. Chong Ui-sung for giving the money [sentence as received].

Younger brother of current Defense Minister Chong Yong-ho was investigated on suspicion of accepting bribes on behalf of his brother, but the prosecution said the money was not related to Yulgok project.

Defense Minister Expresses Willingness To Resign

SK1907003593 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 19 Jul 93 p 1

[Article by reporter Pang Chun-sik]

[Text] On 18 July, National Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae was reported to be willing to soon [kummyonggan] inform President Kim Yong-sam of his willingness to resign [sauirul pyomyonghada]. In a telephone interview with a CHOSON ILBO reporter, Minister Kwon said: "My private affairs have prevented me from carrying out my duties as a public official, and if they should become a stumbling block to president's ruling activity, I cannot but express my willingness to resign. He added: "I will express my willingness to resign anyway." Minister Kwon said: "Even though I have felt responsible for my brother's affairs, I was unable to express this to the president because of consecutive holidays." Thus, he implied that he may express his willingness to resign on 19 July.

In the course of auditing and inspecting the Yulgok Project, the Board of Audit and Inspection revealed that Kwon Yong-ho, Minister Kwon's brother, had received

50 million won from an intermediary arms dealer. Consequently, people began to question Minister Kwon's morality and attention is focused on what decision Minister Kwon will make.

In connection with the recent military reforms, Minister Kwon said: "Even though some military officers have expressed dissatisfaction with military reforms, a majority in the Army has silently applauded them." In the mean time, a government source said: "Even if Minister Kwon is to express his willingness to resign, it is highly unlikely that Chongwadae [presidential office] will accept it."

President Rejects Resignation

SK1907060793 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 19 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] On 19 July ROK President Kim Yong-sam summoned National Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae to Chongwadae [presidential office] and rejected his resignation. Minister Kwon had submitted his resignation to President Kim to assume moral responsibility for his brother's receipt of money from arms dealers.

Minister Kwon submitted his resignation to President Kim by way of the presidential chief of staff on 18 July. Summoning Minister Kwon in person on 19 July, President Kim rejected the resignation and asked him to work hard with unwavering determination.

Minister Kwon said in his resignation: "Having aroused public criticism on account of my personal affairs, I feel responsible for tarnishing the government's morality and consequently burdening presidential rule."

President Kim Yong-sam is reported to have noted that Minister Kown had no knowledge of his brother's case. President Kim added that "this is not the right moment to replace the national defense minister" because this moment is critical to firmly establishing military discipline.

A high-ranking Chongwadae official said: "President Kim has a firm resolution that there is no sanctuary in dealing with irregularities and corruption. In accordance with this resolve, Minister Kwon's assets, including deposits, were closely traced and investigated but no evidence of his irregularities were uncovered. He added: "We closely questioned Minister Kwon's brother about whether he had received money from the arms dealer. As a result, it was determined that Minister Kwon was unaware of all of this."

Joint Chiefs of Staff Operations Officer Dismissed

SK1707023693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0228 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Seoul, July 17 (YONHAP)—An Army Major General known to be a member of Hana-hoe, an exclusive factional fraternity of Korean Military Academy [KMA] graduates in the Army, was dismissed from his post reportedly due to his expression of discontent with the way the current government has handled military affairs. Dismissed as director for operations at the Joint Chiefs of Staff [JCS] and placed on the stand-by status at the Army headquarters Friday was Maj. Yi Chung-sok, a graduate of the 21st class of the military academy.

Yi allegedly laid bare his dissatisfaction at the government's attitude toward the military during a dinner hosted by JCS Chairman Gen. Yi Yang-ho for 20-odd military officers in the major general level and above earlier on July 7.

According to some participants of the dinner, Yi continuously complained, often crying: "Can the military be handled this way?"

He was restrained by the JCS chairman several times, the participants said. He reportedly accused top leaders of the military of being bent only on protecting their own back without taking appropriate measures to protect the military from the civilian government's policy toward the military and the reform drive, to which he expressed "strong" discontent.

The major general, who had been the front-runner in the race for promotion among KMA classmates, failed to be promoted to a lieutenant general in the regular personnel reshuffle of the Army in May.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir, Indonesia's Suharto Arrive in Langkawi

BK1607133893 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir and Indonesian President Suharto have arrived on the island resort of Langkawi for talks to further strengthen bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi expressed the hope that the outcome of the meeting between the two leaders will lead to higher levels of understanding between both countries and chart new directions for them. He also looked forward for the enhancing of cooperation and strengthening of bilateral relations between Malaysia and Indonesia as a result of the meeting.

The visit will also enable President Suharto to get a closer look at developments taking place on the island.

Begin Bilateral Talks 17 Jul

BK1707061293 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0517 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Langkawi Island, North-Western Malaysia, July 17 (OANA- BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and Indonesian President Suharto are having talks here, Saturday. Among issues believed to be discussed by the two leaders are the northern growth triangle, the problem of Indonesian workers and bilateral relations. At the same time, ministers from the two countries are having a meeting at the hotel.

Malaysia's delegation comprises Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Agriculture Minister Sanusi Junid, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Sabbaruddin Chik, International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz and Human Resources Minister Lim Ah Lek. Indonesia is represented by Industry and Trade Coordinating Minister Hartarto, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, Tourism, Posts and Telecommunications minister Joop Ave, Manpower Minister Abdul Latif and Minister/Secretary of State Murdiono.

Abdullah is expected to announce the outcome of the discussions at a press conference later Saturday.

Suharto and his wife, Ibu [Madame] Tien arrived here Friday for a three-day working visit.

View Future of Sipadan, Ligitan Islands

BK1707062093 Jakarta ANTARA in English 17 Jul GMT 0525 93

[Text] Malaysia, July 17 (OANA/ANTARA)—President Suharto here yesterday morning held a tete-a-tete with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed during which the future of Sipadan and Ligitan islands was likely to be touched. The question of the two small islands off the shore East Kalimantan have been on the back burner since 1969 when Indonesia and Malaysia agreed to maintain the islands' status quo. Malaysia began developing the islands several years ago and touting them as its newest tourist objects. The development reportedly was stopped after a protest from Jakarta.

The tete-a-tete marked the second day of Suharto's tour to Malaysia which like Indonesia is a member of the 26-year old Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Indonesian officials in the president's entourage said that the talks with Mahathir would also touch on the issues of Indonesian workers who in the last two or three years flocked to Malaysia. Regional issues in the Suharto-Mahathir talks will also include the plan to set up the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand development triangle.

Suharto's entourage during his three-day visit includes Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, Cooridnating Minister for Industries and Trade Hartarto, Minister/State Secretary Murdiono, Tourism, Post and Telecommunications Minister Joop Ave, and Manpower Minister Abdul Latif. They will meet their Malaysian counterparts, Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi, Industries and International Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz, Culture and Tourism Minister Sabbaruddin Chik and Human Resources Minister Lim Ah Lek.

Islands Issue To Be Settled Amicably

BK1707073293 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and President Suharto have held talks at the Pelangi Beach resort in Langkawi. The meeting started at 9.30 a.m. [0130 GMT]. [passage omitted]

The minister of foreign affairs, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, later told newsmen that Malaysia agreed to settle the disputed pulau [island] Sipadan and Ligitan issue through peaceful negotiations. The two countries understood that the issue should not be left to jeopardize ties and cooperation between them. He said the third official level meeting between Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta will be held at the end of this year to discuss the matter.

Datuk Abdullah said in their meeting, the ministers also discussed East Asia Economic Caucus, EAEC.

'Good Understanding' Reached on EAEC

BK1707092393 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0801 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Langkawi Island, North-Western Malaysia, July 17 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia and Indonesia reached good understanding on how to advance and activate the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) at the ministerial meeting between the two countries here Saturday. Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said countries explained and elaborated on ways to advance the proposal during the two-hour meeting.

Malaysia was represented by Abdullah, International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz, Agriculture Minister Sanusi Junid, Arts, Culture and Tourism Minister Sabbaruddin Chik and Human Resources Minister Lim Ah Lek. On the Indonesian side were Ali Alatas (Foreign), Hartarto (Industry and Trade), Abdul Latif (Human Resources), Joop Ave (Tourism, Post and Telecommunications) and Murdiono (Minister/State Secretary).

Abdullah spoke to reporters at the end of the meeting held at the Pelangi beach resort as part of President Suharto's three-day working visit to Malaysia. He said the meeting noted that the EAEC issue would be discussed at the Asean Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in Singapore later this month and at the ASEAN Economic Ministers conference in October.

The Malaysia-Indonesia understanding would be discussed with the other ASEAN partners—Thailand, Singapore, Philippines and Brunei—and the AMM would make a decision on the proposal, he added.

Abdullah said the Singapore meeting would discuss the ASEAN secretary-general's paper on the possible three modalities on advancing the EAEC. They are:

"Through the Post Ministerial Conference [PMC] (between the ASEAN and its dialogue partners after the AMM);
as a caucus within the APEC,
and linked to ASEAN economic ministers. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Both sides agreed that the first option could not be accepted after a thorough discussion as it would not be good to clutter the PMC with too many issues, he added.

He said, however, that the Singapore meeting would discuss all three possibilities together with the Malaysia-Indonesia understanding and that a decision would have to be made by the ministers.

Earlier, in his opening statement at the press conference, Abdullah said Malaysia and Indonesia shared a common confidence in the objectives and principles of EAEC as decided at the ASEAN summit in Singapore in January last year. The discussions today covered the problems encountered in activating the EAEC And the consequential actions necessary for its operation, he added.

Both sides were confident there were no problems with the objectives and principles of EAEC and, as such, the best course towards activating it had to be found and decided on, he said.

Investment Guarantee Agreement Reached

BK1707124693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0929 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Langkawi Island, North-western Malaysia, July 17 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia and Indonesia Saturday agreed to sign an investment guarantee agreement as soon as possible.

Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said the agreement followed discussions between her and Indonesian Trade and Industry Coordination Minister Hartarto at a ministerial-level meeting, here, Saturday. Discussions would be held at the official level soon and Hartarto had agreed that the agreement be signed in Kuala Lumpur as soon as possible, she told reporters after the meeting.

Rafidah said the agreement was prompted by the increasing volume of trade between the two countries. She said Indonesian investments in Malaysia now totalled over U.S$1 billion while Malaysian investments in Indonesia had exceeded U.S.$150 million.

With the evolution of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and the opportunities given to the private sector by the two countries, I expect the crossflow of investment to rise, she said.

She said that during the discussions, Malaysia and Indonesia also agreed to take the initiative to make appropriate tariff cuts towards speeding up the evolution of AFTA. Both countries also agreed to step up bilateral relations, including at ministerial, official and private-sector levels, to further enhance their economic ties, she added.

Mahathir on Closer Economic Cooperation

BK1807160793 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Malaysia believes that there are many areas for cooperation to strengthen economic and trade relations between Malaysia and Northern Sumatera. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Malaysia, which is facing labor shortages and higher development costs, can undertake industrial investment in North Sumatera which offers lower labor costs. Estate development and sheep husbandry are among the areas that have been identified.

Speaking during a news conference at Langkawi Airport after bidding farewell to President and Mrs. Suharto, Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia is studying the use of border passes for residents of northern peninsular Malaysia, southern Thailand, and Northern Sumatera within the framework of the northern growth triangle to be created in the near future.

On the development of the southern growth triangle, Dr. Mahathir said the federal government will help the state of Johor to seize available opportunties. Johor needs to coordinate its activities with the federal government because the state has no experience in the development of areas involving other countries.

Touching on investment, Dr. Mahathir was confident that Malaysian investors will give attention to investment in Indonesia because that country is more liberal and has begun to open its markets.

Meanwhile, Malaysia plans to build an assembly plant for Proton Saga cars in Indonesia under a joint venture agreement. The prime minister said the price of the Proton Sagas assembled with local components in Indonesia will be more competitive than that of fully built cars exported to that country.

Auto Plant To Be Set Up in Indonesia

BK1907074893 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0321 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Langkawi, July 19 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia plans to set up an assembly plant for the Proton Saga [national car] in Indonesia on joint-venture basis with that country, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Sunday. He said the assembling of Proton Saga in Indonesia would make the national car more competitive in Indonesian market.

Dr. Mahathir told reporters at the airport here that Indonesia was now liberalising its imports and it had no objection to the import of Malaysian cars. However, it would be more competitive to assemble the cars there using local components, he said. Now Indonesia is open and they will welcome our cars...But, if we export them in fully build up form (CBU), we will be subjected to the same import duties as other imported CBU cars.

On the other hand, if we are to assemble the car there and use local components, the taxes will be reduced accordingly and that will make our car competitive, he said.

The prime minister was asked to comment on the possibility of Malaysia exporting the Proton Saga to Indonesia and importing Indonesian aircraft in return.

At the same time, we will consider the Indonesian-made aircraft for the use by our Air Force. Since we may need to replace our Caribou, we will consider Indonesian aircraft as a candidate for the replacement, he said.

DPRK Interested in Enhancing Bilateral Ties

BK1707044893 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0312 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 17 (OANA-BERNAMA)—North Korea wants to upgrade bilateral relations with Malaysia especially in the field of trade and in the exchange of information, Malaysian Lower House of Parliament Deputy Speaker Ong Tee Kiat said Saturday. Ong, who recently returned after a five-day visit to North Korea, said that country wanted to have direct trade relations to enhance bilateral trade with Malaysia. At present, North Korea buys Malaysian goods like rubber and palm oil via a third party like Singapore, he told reporters here.

According to Ong, the speaker and the deputy speaker of the North Korean parliament had told him that their country fully supported Malaysia's proposal for the setting up of the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC). Ong said North Korea hoped that Malaysia would give attention to a proposal to set up a news agency among developing countries for an exchange of information which was now being monopolised by the West.

The North Korean parliament also wants to foster relationship with the Malaysian parliament in efforts to further strengthen relations between both governments.

Editorial Views Hopes for Solution to Bosnia Issue

BK1707134793 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 16 Jul 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Hope for Bosnia, Finally?"]

[Text] Although it is long overdue and has yet to be carried out, the decision by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to send troops to protect Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a step in the right direction. Its readiness to commit up to 20,000 troops when the United Nations has only requested 7,600 is a recongition of the severity of the task at hand and perhaps an effort to make up for its failure to take speedy action earlier.

This belated action follows a half-hearted attempt by the United Nations, under the influence of, and therefore susceptible to manipulation by the big powers, to halt the atrocities—mass killing of women and children, expulsion of civilians from their homes, rape of women and even young girls and blockade of humanitarian aid to the civilian population, just to name a few.

Although it is already more than a year since the atrocities began, the Serbs are still comparatively free to go on committing them. The UN has been generally ineffective, making feeble protests, duly ignored by the Serbs, and sending in too few soldiers who could not even protect themselves, let alone the Muslims.

Does this decision by the OIC mean that Bosnian Muslims can now look forward to some peace and breathe a bit more easily?

By the look of things the Bosnians still have to keep their fingers crossed. Taking the Malaysian case, the deployment of troops was approved by the Cabinet subject to two conditions, and these are by no means routine.

The two matters to be resolved are the provision of air cover for the ground troops and funding for their upkeep. Logically, the former should be provided by the United States and Europe and the latter should come from the United Nations.

Unfortunately, in this tragic issue logic seems to have played a minor role, if it has not been totally ignored. Although it is happening in Europe's backyard, the countries which could have taken some action have either been dragging their feet or have chosen to ignore the problem altogether. In the case of the United States, it has alternated between strong action and non-action and under the guise of coordination with its allies it has not taken any meaningful measure. In deference to its allies it even reversed its announced decision to lift the arms embargo against the Muslims, a situation unfairly favouring the Serbs.

Given this less-than-enthusiastic response by the big powers so far, one would be wise not to expect them to be readily forthcoming in support of the proposed Muslim troops. What happens if they decide to wash their hands completely and not lift a finger to support this operation? Would this mean it would grind to a halt before it started?

In the worst situation, the OIC may have to go it alone and if it has not considered this possibility it may have to rethink its options in a hurry. The time for concrete action is running very short. As Defence Minister Datuk Sri Najib Abdul Razak put it, if nothing is done now, by the time winter is over there will no Bosnian Muslims left to protect.

Petronas Reports on Earnings in Capital Market

BK1707091993 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0327 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 17 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Petronas, the national oil corporation, earned more than RM1 billion [Malaysian ringgit] (about U.S.$2.5 billion) [figure as received] last year from its involvement in the capital market, its Senior Vice-President Mohamed Hassan Merican said. He, however, maintained that Petronas was merely a small player in the market as it, with its huge reserves, did not want to become the determinant of the stock prices.

We take part in the purchase of shares but we are abstaining ourselves from becoming the dictator of the market, said Petronas's president and chief executive Azizan Zainul Abidin.

Azizan and Hassan were speaking at a press conference to announce Petronas's successful completion in raising U.S.$500 million (RM1.3 billion) via the unregistered U.S. debt issue. Petronas has been ranked by the U.S. financial magazine FORTUNE as one of the world's most successful petroleum company. It has a total assets of RM37.4 billion (about U.S.$14.96 billion) and a fund reserves of RM15.6 billion (about U.S.$6.24 billion).

Minister on Possibility of Buying Russian Helicopters

BK1707105693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0932 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 17 (OANA/BERNAMA)—The air force may acquire a fleet of Russian-made attack helicopters in future, Malaysian Defence Minister Najib Razak said Saturday. We are not ruling out the possibility, he said.

However, he said, buying the Russian helicopters could possibly take place only after the air force acquired 18 MIG329s [aircraft type as received] also from Russia.

Najib acknowledged that the air force had plans to form a squadron of troop carrier gunships. They would replace the ageing French-made Alouettes and the U.S.- made Sikorsky (Nuri) helicopters, he said.

Najib said there was no final decision yet on the proposal which was part of the overall modernisation of the armed forces.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Warns Against Foreign Interference

BK1607141093 Beijing China Radio International in Cambodian 1030 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Mr. Hun Sen, cochairman of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC], said on 14 July in Phnom Penh that the international community should not use aid as means to bar the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] from joining the Cambodia peace process. He further said that at present, the most important thing is national reconciliation and that Cambodia is once more unified. He added that we should not allow foreigners to make use of their economic influence to break up Cambodia.

It is reported that U.S. officials have repeatedly stated that should the PDK be included in the PNGC, aid to Cambodia will be cut off.

Ranariddh, Hun Sen Speak at Defense Ceremony

BK1707103593 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] On 14 July at the National Defense Ministry, a ceremony was solemnly organized to switch over the post of national defense minister with the participation of Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh, cochairman of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC] and cominister of national defense; His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, PNGC cochairman and cominister of national defense; H.E. Sak Sutsakhan, adviser to the PNGC cochairmen on national defense; H.E. General Tie Banh, deputy defense minister; H.E. General Tie Chamrat, deputy defense minister; H.E. General Ke Kimyan, chief of staff of the Cambodian National Armed Forces [CNAF]; guests of honor; and CNAF high-ranking officers.

After H.E. General Tie Banh talked about the reason for the switch-over ceremony, H.E. Sok An and H.E. Veng Sereivut, coministers of the Cabinet Office, read the decrees of His Royal Highness [HRH] Upayuvareach Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian head of state and CNAF supreme commander, on the appointment of Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and H.E. Hun Sen as PNGC cochairmen and coministers for national defense; the appointment of the CNAF cocommanders-in-chief, auxiliary forces, police, and security forces of the national armed forces; the appointment of General Sak Sutsakhan as adviser to the PNGC cochairmen on national defense; the decree setting up the National Defense Ministry and the CNAF; the decree establishing the CNAF chief of staff office; and the PNGC cochairmen's order on the name of the CNAF name.

Speaking on the occasion, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh expressed great joy at the meeting full of unanimity and understanding. He stressed that although we do not yet have a common uniform as a national army, this meeting is a step with historical significance and is evidence showing national and foreign opinions that we, Cambodians, have reached underestanding and are uniting toward quickly building the nation. The Prince Kromluong also stressed the significance of the national army—a neutral army that absolutely does not belong to any party or individual, but to the entire Cambodian people and nation. On some issues relating to the shortage of equipment and budget in the current circumstances, the Prince Kromluong promised to do his utmost to talk friendly countries into providing assistance to our CNAF.

Afterward, H.E. Hun Sen spoke, expressing most profound thanks to the CNAF, evidence of military compromise acting as the core of national reconciliation under the clear-sighted leadership of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Also on the same occasion, H.E. Hun Sen pointed out a number of major tasks dealing with the administration of the armed forces; the management of bases, equipment, technology, wealth, immovable property; and discipline, aimed at making the CNAF a powerful and firm national force.

A number of immediate and necessary tasks were also discussed and explained by H.E. Hun Sen, such as the establishment and inclusion of national armed forces. This included the establishment of structures at the levels of ministry, general staff office, and provincial and municipal military regions; a common uniform for the national army; and the preservation of forces within the framework of the report submitted to UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

Concerning the administration of forces, troops will all be cantoned, except in the case of mission dealing with explosives. Logistics and budget issues will be tackled and improved in the immediate future.

Concerning the task of the CNAF in the future and at present, senior and junior officers and men in the entire CNAF should exercise the right to defense themselves, their areas, villages, communes, rice fields, fishing lots, forest, and communication lines relating to the economic, cultural, and political sectors. There will also be training to ensure good discipline and neutrality without serving any parties.

Hun Sen on Unified National Armed Forces

BK1607131793 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Speech by Hun Sen, cochairman of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia and cominister of national defense, at a service transfer ceremony held at the Defense Ministry on the afternoon of 14 July—recorded]

[Text] First of all, I would like to pay my respects to His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Kromluong [Norodom Ranariddh]. Esteemed and respected excellencies and gentlemen the high-ranking officers: Today, I am very pleased to be able to meet with all of you, senior officers, in this ceremony to install myself and respected HRH Prince Kromluong as cocommanders in chief and coministers of national defense. I am extremely delighted to hear the very precious and significant address made just now by HRH Prince Kromluong to all our officers.

Today, I wish to take this opportunity to warmly thank and appreciate the armies of the former three factions which now sit together under the banner of the national Armed Forces. I can say that without your support, the situation just two or three weeks earlier would have been different. In their analysis, a number of foreigners and some local politicians said that the situation in Cambodia would become similar to that of Angola, Afghanistan, Somalia, or Yugoslavia. However, under the august initiative and leadership of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, a reconciliation solution, a reconciliation formula was found with the support and approval of all of you, both officers and privates. Thanks to that, we have been able to prevent a danger which could have happened in our nation.

I would like to take this occasion to express very warm thanks to all of you, general officers, field-grade officers, company-grade officers, noncommissioned officers, and privates alike, for patiently abiding by the command of the Prince Father as well as that of the political leaders. Allow me to stress this: No matter how hard the politicians press for war, if you who carry the weapons continue to sit together here, there can be no war. It is on this point that I would like to say that you, both officers and privates, are playing a very important role in the annals of peace in Cambodia. No foreigners could have achieved it. Only HRH Norodom Sihanouk with the support of patriotic politicians and the national Armed Forces—the former tripartite armies taking part in this peace process—could do it. At that time, I knew that UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and all the foreigners involved had lost all hope. They never dreamed that we could make such a rapid advance and realize this most vital ingredient of peace. In any country's experience of peace solution, the greatest difficulty is in securing a military compromise. However, here, the military compromise was achieved so fast that it became the core factor for national reconciliation.

It is for this reason that I take this opportunity to repeatedly thank all of you, excellencies and gentlemen, and I wish you success in your future service to the nation. [applause]

Also on this occasion, I would like to express most profound thanks to HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk for graciously bestowing to me the high rank of supreme general. This took place at midnight on 18 June when he learned that a formula was possible through the creation of the post of coministers of national defense and that of coministers of the interior and security. His Highness then graciously conferred this most lofty title on me. On this occasion, I would like to make a pledge before all of you, excellencies and gentlemen who represent all army units, that in my capacity as the cocommander in chief of the Armed Forces and cominister of national defense, just as HRH Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh has permitted me to have a share in this responsibility, I will exercise my duty truly in the cause of the nation.

The role of the Armed Forces in the peace process is very important. You know that if the army of a country firmly upholds its peacekeeping role there can be no war. If the army does not fight, no one will. No one will attack with hoes, and even if he does no desperately serious damage would be done. So, in the recent past, we have left the war behind us. As HRH the head of state said on 12 July, we no longer have any extraordinary problems to solve. Only ordinary problems remain for us to solve. What are these ordinary problems? They are the common affairs that all countries in the world have to overcome. Do not think that Japan or the United States or France no longer have problems. They all have problems. Even Japan which is already an economic superpower now still finds itself in the middle of another political and economic reform. After reaching one stage, a country has to go to another, and so on. Therefore, it is only a natural evolution for Japan. As far as we are concerned, we no longer have any extraordinary problems. We have only ordinary ones, the same as the ones that the governments of all countries must confront.

On this occasion, I would like to tell all of you as officers of all units and echelons—and this should be taken as an order from the cocommander in chief and cominister of national defense—about the tasks that you will have to undertake in the days to come. I would like to ask the permission from HRH Prince Kromluong to issue this order on his behalf describing the tasks the national Armed Forces will have to fulfill during the coming months.

These tasks encompass two major aspects:

I. The Structure and Integration of Forces:

At this point, we have already been undertaking the restructuring of the armed forces. Now, we must proceed with the integration of the former tripartite armies that have implemented the Paris peace accord, incorporating them into the framework of the national armed forces by implementing five provisions under this Aspect I:

1. Continue the process of structuring the General Command, the National Defense Ministry, and the General Staff.

This task must be carried out rapidly so as to establish the leading, controlling, and commanding capacity at the national armed forces level. We have already started proceeding with this task. All the necessary royal decrees have already been issued. However, more decrees appointing officers will have to be made because we need to merge all the different armies and, as HRH Prince Kromluong has just said, ours must be a neutral army serving no one political party, no one political personality but the nation. Therefore, although we already have the structure we still need to appoint more military officials and officers to man posts in the National Defense Ministry and the General Staff. We may delay the setting up of the structure of the co-General Command because the coministers of national defense are already working there. So, first, we must continue organizing whatever is necessary so that the General Staff and the National Defense Ministry can control the situation at a national army level.

2. Proceed toward changing the structure throughout the armed forces based on the model of Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's former Popular Socialist Party], such as instituting military regions, provincial operational zones, and district or suboperational zones.

I raise this issue to inform you, excellencies and gentlemen, that there is a need to amend the structure. We have already begun amending this structure. We have done it at the Defense Ministry and the General Staff. We will soon begin amending the structure in military regions as well as at the provincial and district levels. Why? During the past period when the country was in a state of war, the authority of the provinces in commanding the army was too considerable. However, under our new structure based on the model of Sangkum Reas Niyum, the armed forces are placed within their own command network. Therefore, after completing the smaller-scale restructuring of the Defense Ministry and General Staff, you must immediately look into the lower-echelon system to see what you must do for the military regions, the operational zones, and the suboperational zones so that we can transfer the field of command from the provinces and districts back to the army, thus enabling us to strengthen the army network. This is the second need. It also requires that the National Defense Ministry and General Staff take all necessary measures so that our armed forces come under a correct command network, including military regions, units, and so on.

However, the actions required in this connection have mostly concerned the former armed forces of the State of Cambodia [SOC], that is, the People's Armed Forces. But do not forget that all the armies of all former factions must also be involved. This order is not aimed at the former SOC alone. It involves all factions that have implemented the Paris accord. I point this out because I do not mean the Party of Democratic Kampuchea which is doing things their own way.

3. Concerning the forces, maintain the existing frameworks with the same numbers that were announced to UNTAC.

No increase, but no reduction either. We announced the numbers to UNTAC at the end of 1991. We must keep those figures. But I would like to inform you that the former SOC should not bring back the 38,000 men who were demobilized last year. This is because it would become a very heavy burden. With the other two factions, we already have too many men under arms already. Considering our economic and financial situation, this number is excessive. However, do not panic. We are not going to reduce or expand the size of the army. We will maintain the numbers announced to UNTAC. Each faction has its own number given to UNTAC. So, structurally speaking, there is a change as the armies of various factions have merged into the national armed forces, but the numbers that all former factions told UNTAC will be kept. I only wish to point out that the former SOC army should not bring back those 38,000 who were laid off last year because it would make this new army too big for the national budget. It is already far too big without that. Whether we will have a plan to expand the army in the years to come is all up to the future when we will work out a national defense policy to match our economic and financial conditions. This calls for a clear understanding of the situation by all sides concerned.

I also wish to remind you here that I have already talked with His Excellency [H.E.] [Veterans Affairs Minister] Prum Neakareach. I told him that the army of the MOULINAKA [National Liberation Movement of Cambodia] party is not among those under the Paris accord. So, his army made up of random recruits who were arbitrarily promoted to all ranks from second lieutenants to generals cannot be integrated into the national army. The armies that are merged into the national armed forces are those of the three former factions, namely, the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front—and H.E. Sak Sutsakhan is also here today together with other officers who have agreed to bury the hatchet and follow the same path—and the former People's Armed Forces. This means that other parties that set up their armies later on will have their armies outlawed. I frankly told that to H.E. Prum Neakareach a few days ago. I said his army could not be accepted. If they want to come in they must ...[changes thought] However, the number of former three factions has already been too large. We do not have money even to take back the 38,000 demobilized soldiers of the former SOC.

4. Gradually change the uniforms as feasible in accordance with funds available beginning with the honor guards, the high-ranking officers, and the units attached to the National Defense Ministry and General Staff. HRH Prince Kromluong has already touched on this matter. We must make a great effort. The need will be voluminous. Just for the beginning, we will need at least 300,000 uniforms, just two per head initially and for only a few percent of the entire armed forces. It is not a small sum to spend on 300,000 uniforms. Permit me to be frank, HRH [Ranariddh] and H.E. [Deputy Defense Minister] Tie Chamrat should start launching a begging mission now. [laughs] I will cosign whatever is necessary later, but you must start the begging now. I see that you are very effective. Thailand has promised to help us with several ten thousands of uniforms. Singapore and other countries may help us more. So, HRH and H.E. Tie Chamrat should accept this begging mission. [laughs]

For the immediate future, why do we have to focus our attention on the honor guards first? This is because they are always present at ceremonial occasions. If they cannot change in time it would not be good. So, they should be the first to have a new uniform. And the same reason can be applied to the general officers. I am curious to see HRH Prince Kromluong wearing a five-star uniform and I am looking forward to wearing one myself just to get the feel. [laughter] You know, Cambodia never had five-star generals before. Now we have a few five-star generals. Let us all try and get the new uniform. So, the general officers should have their new uniform. The reason is we must show to our nation, to the world that we now have a national armed forces.

So, we must gradually proceed with getting the new uniforms. But, first of all, even if we do not get foreign aid for that we must request a budget allocation to dress up our honor guards and high-ranking officers for it is a great psychological and political question for unifying the armed forces.

No matter where the forces come from, when they are integrated here, we must proceed with their transformation gradually. Now, this is what we are going to do temporarily: Any officers and privates who have not yet been given the new uniform should pin this badge on their old uniform. This national flag and these initials of the Cambodian National Armed Forces should be pinned here. Let us have uniformity with the badges first. We will change the uniform gradually. Of course, we will have to spend a lot of money for that, but we rely on foreign aid also to a great extent.

5. Concerning the militia, maybe we will need to issue a decree or ministerial order to change its name. The National Defense Ministry and H.E. the adviser to the cochairmen in charge of national defense will consider the matter of issuing a decree, a ministerial order to change the name of the militia back to what it used to be under Sangkum Reas Niyum. However, for the time being, under whatever name it is called—be it Kang Senajon or Kang Chiveakpol—this force should be kept in the villages and communes so it can help protect the localities and prevent armed robberies which currently have become very rife in the countryside. In some villages, the local inhabitants with firearms have to take turns patrolling their lands against cattle rustlers. Another important thing is that I urge you to pay attention to controlling the arms and explosives currently in the hands of Kang Senajon or Kang Chiveakpol. Keep them under tight control. Prevent them from being spread around and stop people using explosives to kill fish, guns to fire in demand for rain, or firearms to carry out any other unsanctioned activities. For example, our militiamen on guard duty at a number of roadblocks are supposed to ensure security for travelers but at the same time they frequently use guns to stop cars and ask for money. This is a point of great importance to which you should pay attention.

II. Control of Forces:

There are three main points in the control of forces.

1. In the immediate future, we must control the forces as best we can by cantoning all of them except those on operations with correct assignment orders. Concerning this matter, the cochairmen of the government have already issued a note to the National Defense Ministry and another to the Interior/Security Ministry. So, to facilitate the control of forces, you must canton all army units. Avoid letting soldiers live in private homes. They must be called back to the barracks, except those on assignment. Failing that, on the one hand, those of our forces scattered outside the camp may misbehave themselves toward the people because they are outside our control. On the other hand, bad elements may make use of military ranks and uniforms to conduct vicious activities detrimental to the happiness of the people. So, only after our national armed forces look into and take control of this matter can we solve the problem of rampant robberies. In some of the robbery cases for which we succeeded in making arrests, the culprits used army or police uniforms. There are also places where military ranks and insignia are fabricated and put on sale. Therefore, the only way to facilitate the control is to canton all soldiers except those on official assignments. In so doing, we can avoid untoward incidents.

In the 2d Military Region, for example—the military chief of Kompong Cham Province knows this very well—there is the headache-inspiring case of soldiers trucking rubber sheets. No one knows whether they are real soldiers or fake ones. His Highness [Prince Sihanouk] also received complaints about soldiers and policemen getting involved in white slavery. So, the best way to solve the dilemma about the true identity of soldiers and policemen is that they must be placed in the barracks. Once all of them are cantoned we will see who are the fake ones. This is an issue that we must solve.

At the same time, we must strengthen discipline in the armed forces and prevent all kinds of disobedience generating from the ranks of the armed forces. All of you must pay a close attention to this question. You must know by now that we are not just officers or privates of any faction, but officers or privates of the national army. If they misbehave, the bad consequences of their acts will affect the supreme commander who is no one else but our august prince head of state and also affect the government which is working hard to bring stability to the nation. That will be the undoing of our armed forces if they are undisciplined. I already said above that our army is generally good. But we must not forget that its being good should be perpetuated and its shortcomings should be reduced.

2. Control all arms, ammunition, explosives, war equipment, and materiel at our disposal.

We are very poor. We will not have enough money to purchase arms and ammunition for the future. You see, we have a hard time just getting our new uniform. As you know, we are now on a begging mission. So, we must control the arms and explosives that we have. Do not fire or use them for no purposes. We should take good care of them because they are very important as national assets for national defense. All countries must have a strong basis for national defense. For this reason, I appeal to all of you to take care of the arms, ammunition, explosives, war equipment, and materiel already at our disposal. By materiel, I mean military automobiles and buildings. Soon, UNTAC will withdraw. Thus when we get back the materiel that the armed forces had given UNTAC for use, we must take very good care of it. We must not lose any of it. In terms of office space, the former army of the SOC provided UNTAC with more than 1 million square meters, including land and buildings. So, if you can protect all that space, you will not be short of space for use or training by high-ranking officers, medium-ranking officers, or privates. You can use all that land for the construction in the future of military barracks for military dependents. That is possible because over 1 million square meters is not a small area. Therefore, you must take good care of those amenities.

A few days ago, I summoned the military chief of Kompong Cham Province and told him to take care of the former Chup and other camps, for in the future the 2d Military Region might not stay where it is and might move downtown Kompong Cham itself. So, we must take care of those facilities right now. I am afraid that when UNTAC leaves we cannot occupy them as the buildings will be found without windows or roofings and we will have to spend so much money refurbishing them.

At the same time, there is this matter with the Air Force. Yesterday, HRH Prince Kromluong said that he would negotiate with UNTAC on the possibility of using the Kompong Chhnang air base as our own air base. UNTAC is using it now. They have done a good job with it. They have built houses on it and laid down a nice runway with lighting and all. So, HRH Prince Kromluong is going to negotiate with UNTAC. Of course, the base will become ours sooner or later but it will be great if all the facilities, such as houses, air conditioning and pumping units, et al are handed over as well. Therefore, we should take very good care of them. The Army as well as the Air Force should be ready to take charge. We cannot station our MiG's in Pochentong any longer. It is dangerous to the capital. Who knows, one of them might crash in the middle of the city one day. And we saw that during Lon Nol's time a plane took off from Pochentong and immediately nose-dived at the Chamka Mon Presidential Palace. Of course, we are not worried that our armed forces would do that to us, but there is always a risk of mechanical failure. After a plane takes off, it is possible for something to go wrong and have it plunge into the middle of the city. Or when it prepares to land, something goes astray and it crashes in the city. And we cannot have training flights either because our city is growing in all directions. So, we should make preparations to move out. Yesterday, one of the hangars collapsed under a storm. As a result, three MiG's were damaged and we are so poor. What can we do with the damaged planes? Maybe turn them into pots and pans? [Hun Sen laughs] They cannot fly anyway. Rats are said to be eating away at their wirings...

You should also get yourselves ready to take charge of the UNTAC weapons. We already negotiated our transfer of arms to UNTAC. When we handed handed over our arms to UNTAC, they took good care of them. Now, before leaving, they have asked us where we want the weapons to go. I and HRH Prince Kromluong have agreed that they be given to the military regions or army units and we have specified that divisions should be the smallest unit because battalions or regiments are not in a position to safeguard the weapons.

Anyway, the best solution is that the armaments should be kept at military region commands.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to ask the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] to ship weapons kept at Sok San [a KPNLF-run refugee camp at the Cambodian-Thai border] to warehouses in the Battambang military region. Larger armed units that have warehouses should store armaments received from UNTAC. However, I wish to stress that without authorization from the Ministry of National Defense, those weapons can never be used. UNTAC will transfer the weapons along with an inventory to the Defense Ministry, which will be in control of the weapons. So the weapons can only be used if there is authorization from the Ministry of National Defense. They can never be used as exchange for something else or be sent to other places. The quantity of weapons received from UNTAC should be kept intact.

C. Logistics should be effectively and constantly solved in the interest of armed units, officers, and rank and file. As Prince Kromluong already said, despite difficulties the government will exert its all-out efforts to solve this problem. Of course, it is still impossible to raise salaries. So officers and troops are begged to understand that it is still not possible to raise their salaries. However, what is important now is to find money to pay for their salaries and to find enough rice for their consumption. As for uniforms, they will be changed one after the other.

Increasing salaries is still impossible for the time being. UNTAC said it would give some funds to us in June but so far we have received nothing. Now in July, [words indistinct] $3 million is a moderate amount of money that can be used together with our budget to support our troops. Anyway, I would like to ask the excellency in charge of logistics to urgently take into consideration the need of provisions. Everything can be short except for rice. If the army lacks rice, it will be the end. So the need for rice and other provisions should be urgently tackled.

Supplies for the former armed forces of the State of Cambodia have already been planned. However, provisions for the former soldiers of the other two parties should also be considered immediately. Salaries can be paid a bit later, but rice is asked to be provided on time. Now we should consider the provisions for the whole armed forces, but it is demanded that supplies for the Khmer Rouge be suspended for the time being because they have not yet agreed to join us. We should strive to find provisions only for our armed forces.

Now is the rainy season, so armed units in all regions should be provided with shelters as well. If our officers and combatants on active duty lack shelters, they could be killed by malaria.

III. Duties: I would like to talk about duties to be implemented by the armed forces in the near future.

A. Performing the duties within the framework of the right of self-defense. The meaning of the self-defense right should be clearly understood since self-defense does not signify offensive attack in any way. In other words, the armed forces should only use this right to defend the areas under their control; the important strategic positions which have military, economic, culture, and political significance; the areas where the people make their living, such as farmland, especially land where floating rice is cultivated; fishing lots; the regions where logs or stone are exploited—stone sold to the people or construction enterprises is sometimes broken and crushed in jungle-covered areas—and important communications networks.

The reason I continue to raise the issue of implementing the duties within the framework of the right of self-defense is because one party has not yet agreed to cease fighting. It has seized the Preah Vihear temple. They blew up bridges in Siem Reap Province a few days ago. They robbed cars in Kampot Province as reported by a newspaper, and they continue to carry out attacks in many areas. However, the faction no longer attacks the troops of the State of Cambodia, FUNCINPEC, or KPNLF, but it hurts the national government, the prince [Prince Sihanouk], and the entire national armed forces. Now there is no more this or that party, but the Khmer Rouge or Democratic Kampuchea continues to act in this manner. The third point of the statement made by his royal highness [Prince Sihanouk] indicates that the Khmer Rouge will only return Pailin and Preah Vihear Temple if we accept their second point, meaning that we must agree to allow them to become permanent advisers to the government and to join the national armed forces. However, when they met with Prince Kromluong, they talked about a quadripartite army. It is no longer possible to return to having a quadripartite army. There is one and only one national armed forces. If you want to join, the door is still open but there should be no conditions whatsoever.

Now conditions are imposed on the head of state. The latter should accept those conditions before the Preah Vihear temple and Pailin are returned. This is absolutely impossible. However, his royal highness said that the issue would be discussed in September. So until September, the Khmer Rouge will attack and seize more positions to serve as their bargaining chips. He [Khieu Samphan] still employs the word, as Prince Kromluong used to say, talk-fight, talk-fight, meaning conducting talks while carrying on fighting at the same time. As such, he can attack and capture this or that area to exchange for something with the government.

Anyway, it should be understood that this government no longer belongs to any party. It is a government elected by the people and we also have a legitimate head of state. Therefore, all of you, the commanders, should focus your attention on insuring protection with your right of self-defense. You have already clearly understood the real meaning of the right but I beg you not to launch any offensive attacks. You should only defend the important strategic regions that have military, economic, cultural, and political impact. For instance, the issue of Preah Vihear temple is considered as a political and cultural issue for it has a political and cultural impact. Nevertheless, you are reminded that a lost position will have repercussions on other areas. So all the armed units are urged to firmly maintain a foothold in their respective regions.

If the Khmer Rouge are left to act in this manner, all fishing lots will disappear. As his royal highness said the other day, soon after logging exploitation areas and fishing lots are seized by the Khmer Rouge, our coffers will be empty. This is because our revenue is from taxes collected from fishing and logging exploitation. If the Party of Democratic Kampuchea has taken all, it will be our end. Come what may, you are begged not to carry out offensive attacks whatsoever and all armed units should perform their tasks of protecting the people within the areas under their control. As for the problem with Democratic Kampuchea, we will continue our efforts to solve it. I and Prince Kromluong are finding ways to persuade them to stop fighting. If you are sincere, you should put a halt to your attacks from now on. You do not need to wait until September. You should stop immediately. How can it be possible, while you are talking about national reconciliation you continue to attack? They are attacking this or that area, killing our people.

B. Attention should be paid to the second duty on training by enhancing military discipline and tactics.

Why should we do this? Because the armed forces should be neutral. As Prince Kromluong said, national armed forces should not influence any political party or be influenced by any politician. To uphold democracy, military and police forces and civil administration—diplomats are also included in some countries—should be made neutral. When politicians are changed or this or that party comes to power, military and police forces and civil servants are not changed. This issue should be clearly understood. However, in our country, they are changed: After the coup d'etat to oust Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the latter's entourage were arrested, detained, or killed. And after the collapse of Lon Nol's regime, his soldiers were arrested and killed. Now this is no longer the case. In a liberal democratic regime, a mechanism in which the army, police, civil servants, and diplomats are neutral should be created to serve the regime. For diplomats, if they are not made neutral, they will, when they are outside the country, state that they represent this or that party. This is impossible. They should represent the government because they will be driven in cars with a national flag on it. They should not belong to any particular party. So we should clearly understand this issue.

Discipline also concerns the neutralization of the armed forces which should be made apolitical. I understand that all of you, the officers, know more about military discipline than me but it is imperative that we continue to undergo training. Moreover, we should also improve the quality of the tactics of the officers and rank and file. It is certain that now we are at peace but we should never forget that one party is still in the jungle and that.... [changes thought] We do not mean that we will attack foreign countries but we should not forget that although a country is at peace, such as Sweden which has been peaceful for more than 200 years, it still needs a well-trained army. As such, we should do likewise.

However, junior officers and combatants are earnestly urged to concentrate on training about mines. Why do I need to raise this issue? Because I want our armed units to assist the people in clearing their land of mines so the people are able to cultivate rice. There are millions and millions of land mines in our country at present. So if it is possible, our armed forces should be provided with demining training. In the past, UNTAC also helped us to clear some mines but we should continue to undertake the task. Foreigners coming to help us clear mines took back $700,000 from the $1 million in funding they had brought in. Only $300,000 was finally left for us. Those foreign experts pocketed all the money—I do not mean that they were committing corrupt practices but almost all the funding was used to pay them. In the future, as his royal highness has said, we should ask for money or bulldozers to remove those mines. That being the case, our armed forces should receive effective training about mines so we can take part in the operation to destroy mines in Cambodia's vast territory. This is to enable our people to carry out their farming activities. This is an important issue.

C. To join with the people in national construction by arranging forces to help them in production drives, on arbor day and hygienic day, as well as in building other various achievements, and getting ready to help the people during natural disasters. Our armed forces must be set to join national construction. Any units stationed near the people should help them—if the people face difficulties in transplanting crops, help them with that work. If the people want to build houses [words indistinct], you should help them erect the poles or thatch the roofs. That is what you should do. You should join in other achievements, such as building roads. Strive for success in the coming arbor day and hygiene day. Arrange to make your units clean on hygiene day. Do not leave filthy units while cleaning up other places. If you are not out to clean up other places, just clean up your units, plant trees, and arrange things to make your environment healthy to get rid of mosquitos and to avoid malaria. You should also be prepared to help the people solve any problems that may arise.

I also would like to appeal to our armed forces to help check offenses in the economic field or those which relate to the protection of our culture, our national heritage. There are many offenses in the economic field. In some places, it is said that these economic offenses involved the armed forces. Whether it is true or not, it is said that there are armed men protecting those who commit offenses, such catching fingerlings in violation of the law. It is said that they were armed men. It is not known whether they are really from the armed forces, but they are armed. These armed men are also said to have taken part in trafficking countraband goods.

Now, on behalf of the coministers of National Defense, I would like to issue an order to the naval force at Ream to bring ships out to sea to help patrol the channels between Koh Kong and Sre Ambel and Koh Kong, Kompong Som to check the illegal trafficking of cars, motorcycles, and other goods. In the name of the co- ministers, I will give an award of 10 percent of the amount of money seized. That will be enough for you to live on. Ten percent of, say 100 million, will amount to 10 million. That amount will be enough to build whatever is needed in your unit as well to share with your colleagues, who take part in that operation. Giving away 10 percent as an award is better than losing all. Is that not right? It might not work if less award is given, because the traffickers might bribe navy men. Right? I would like to thank all of you, gentlemen in the navy, for helping me once before in seizing logs being brought out of Koh Kong, out of Kompong Som. Now, I would like all of you to help us again, help our government.

This idea of giving a 10-percent award was initiated by prince kromluong. Our finance minister also proposed this. Since the finance minister made this proposal, we will have money for this. We can ask for whatever amount of money needed from him. But after obtaining that amount, please give it to the combatants. That amount should reach the hands of the combatants so they can use it to improve their health (?and lives).

That is the additional point concerning your duties, which I wanted like to mention on this occasion.

Finally, I would like especially to thank Prince Kromluong for the speech he made just now. Today, we are carrying out this undertaking in a very joyous atmosphere. Although our uniforms are different, we have the same spirit. The main issue is right there. Right? Now let us say this; previously some have said that the Cambodians are good at fighting. But we now should stop saying that—Cambodians are good at fighting. We should say that the Cambodians are good at uniting, at national construction. Do not say that Cambodians are good only at fighting, nonstop fighting. We have now stopped fighting. If all of you stop fighting, no one can continue to fight. When there is a fight, they certainly rely on all of you. Thus, if you stop fighting, the fight ends by itself.

In conclusion, I would like once again to express my respects and commendation to all excellencies and gentlemen for making an immense sacrifice for peace and for national reconciliation by fulfilling your historic mission in the past. Through all of you, I would like to extend best wishes to officers and men of all units. I would like also to extend best wishes to Prince Kromluong. May you enjoy perfect health so as to go around asking for funds [laughs] for feeding our armed forces.

May all excellencies and gentlemen enjoy Lord Buddha's five blessings—longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment. Thank you. [applause]

'Internal Feud' Threatens Son Sann Faction

BK1707112093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1032 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, July 17 (AFP)—A long simmering internal feud amongst the leaders of one of Cambodia's governing coalition parties was threatening to split the faction, the latest edition of the bi-weekly Phnom Penh Post said. The first vice-president of the small Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP) Ieng Muli told the country's only independent English-language newspaper that differences between himself and faction president Son Sann had become intense and had split the party into two camps.

"I have ceased to listen to him (Son Sann) because of our many differences of opinion," Muli said.

The conflict erupted into the open when the aging president wanted the party to boycott the May U.N. organised elections. Muli, who along with Son Sann represents the faction on the Supreme National Council, the reconciliaion body grouping the country's four former warring factions, insisted that the party run in the polls. Son Sann then demanded that Muli be removed from the SNC and that his cadidacy to run in the election be revoked. But both the SNC and senior U.N. officials refused.

The party leader had no grounds for his demand, Muli said.

"His Excellency Son Sonn did not indicate what I had done wrong. In the court you have to prove your allegation with something. He violated the party status," Muli said.

Muli, Son Sann and eight other BLDP representatives won seats in the country's constituent assembly. Son Sann was elected chairman of the assembly and the BLDP was given three ministerial posts in the new government. But Muli, despite his rank and high profile, failed to get a portfolio.

"I can say now, among the 10 (BLDP) representatives, the majority is on my side. We cannot accept his (Son Sann) ideas when he does not want to listen to us," Muli said. Muli, a founding member of the BLDP, and his followers were not yet thinking of leaving the party but they had distanced themselves from Son Sann, he said.

The BLDP, the political wing of the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front, has been plagued by internal fighting ever since it was set up along the Thai-Cambodian border by the former prime minister Son Sann following the Vietnamese invasion in 1979, which ousted a Khmer Rouge government. The faction's army broke away several years ago and set up their own splinter poltical party, the Liberal Democratic Party.

The octogenarian leader was not available for comment as he had left for Paris last week for a routine medical check-up, a party official said.

Foreign Minister Thanks Lao Counterpart

BK1707052093 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Prince Norodom Sirivut, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation of Cambodia, recently sent a thank-you message to His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavat, minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The message said:

Your Excellency, I would like to express my warmest and most cordial thanks to you for the best wishes that you extended to me on my appointment as the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation of cambodia.

I fully agreed with your opinion that the traditional bond of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and peoples has developed constantly in the interest of our two peoples' happiness and well-being.

Please, Your Excellency, accept my highest regards.

Receives Indonesian Envoy

BK1707100093 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Prince Norodom Sirivut, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, has held cordial talks with His Excellency [H.E.] Taufik Tudarbo, Indonesian permanent representative to Cambodia. The talks took place on the morning of 16 July at the offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,

H.E. Taufik Tudarbo warmly praised the appointment of Prince Norodom Sirivut as minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation. He pointed to the cooperative relationship between the two countries, and said Indonesia will continue to improve this relationship, particularly its assistance to Cambodian refugees who have returned from various camps along the Cambodian-Thai border. He also pledged his full support for national unification and the establishment of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia. Indonesia will provide assistance to Cambodia to restore and develop the country and nation, just like other countries around the world.

Prince Norodom Sirivut profoundly thanked the Indonesian Government for its great contribution to the historic operation to find a solution to the Cambodian conflict and to reach a peace agreement in Paris to unite the Cambodian nation and to end the war in Cambodia. The prince also said that bilateral relations between the two countries will be further improved in the field of international cooperation for mutual benefit.

SRV Ambassador Meets Hun Sen 16 Jul

BK1707051293 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] At 0830 on the morning of 16 July at the cabinet office, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, cochairman of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC], granted an audience to H.E. Tran Huy Chuong, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Cambodia.

H.E. Tran Huy Chuong congratulated H.E. Hun Sen on his new position as the cochairman of the PNGC and voiced support for the process of peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia.

Concerning other issues between the two countries, his excellency the Vietnamese ambassador said that Vietnam and Cambodia can resolve them through peaceful means because the two countries have had good relations and share the same goal for peace.

H.E. Hun Sen called on the Vietnamese Government to continue allowing Cambodian citizens to pass through Vietnamese territory on their trips to Ratanakiri and Mondolkiri Provinces since Cambodia has not yet been able to restore her roads to these provinces.

Concerning the upcoming international conference of ASEAN foreign ministers, H.E. Hun Sen said that Cambodia has asked for Vietnam and Laos to attend the conference as observers since they are also signatories of the 23 October 1991 Paris peace agreement.

H.E. Hun Sen added that with Vietnam and Laos observing the conference, peace will be brought to the region as well as to each country.

H.E. Tran Huy Chuong also discussed with H.E. Hun Sen Vietnam's plan to invite Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and H.E. Hun Sen, cochairmen of the PNGC, for an official visit to Vietnam.

Meets Foreign Minister

BK1807025293 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Prince Norodom Sirivut, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, received at his office on the afternoon of 16 July His Excellency [H.E.] Tran Huy Chuong, SRV ambassador to Cambodia.

On that occasion, H.E. Tran Huy Chuong warmly congratulated Prince Norodom Sirivut on his taking office as the new foreign minister.

Concerning the various issues between Cambodia and Vietnam, the Vietnamese ambassador said that the Vietnamese government would respect Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and enhance good bilateral relations. He expressed the hope that the issues related to bilateral relations could be resolved through peaceful means.

H.E. Tran Huy Chuong hailed the successful formation of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC]. He also stressed that the Vietnamese government would like to invite Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and H.E. Hun Sen, PNGC cochairmen, for an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

In his reply, Prince Norodom Sirivut expressed thanks and gratitude to the Vietnamese Government for making significant contributions to the solution for peace in Cambodia. The prince said that Cambodia desired to maintain the good traditions and customs that existed since time immemorial between our two countries. The prince expressed the hope that in the future, the all-round relations between our two countries would be firmly enhanced.

Prince Norodom Sirivut also thanked the Vietnamese Government for helping to train Cambodians and allowing them to further their studies in Vietnam.

Indonesia

Foreign Minister: APEC Summit Proposal Under Study

BK1707130293 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Indonesia is studying U.S. President Bill Clinton's proposal that an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] summit be held in Seattle in 1993. Elaborating on the results of talks between President Suharto and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed in Langkawi, Malaysia today, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Indonesia was studying the U.S. proposal. In this respect, Indonesia is referring to real difficulties facing several parties that are now APEC members, because the invitation involves leaders.

Meanwhile, Manpower Minister Abdul Latief said President Suharto and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed had agreed to set up a committee to facilitate the dispatch of Indonesian workers to Malaysia. This will in turn lead to better cooperation in the matter. Minister Abdul Latief admitted that Malaysia still needed Indonesian workers. There should be better arrangements, however, in accordance with regulations that have been agreed upon.

Suharto Returns From Three-Day Malaysia Visit

BK1807140393 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] President and Madame Suharto arrived in Jakarta this afternoon after a working visit to Langkawi Island, Malaysia which began on 16 July.

Vice President and Madame Try Sutrisno were on hand to welcome President and Madame Suharto upon their arrival by a special plane, BRI-146 Pelita, at the Halim Perdanakusuma International Airport. Seen at the airport were Susilo Sudarman, coordinating minister for politics and security; Saleh Afiff, coordinating minister for economics, finance and development supervision; and General Feisal Tanjung, minister of defense and security, and commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia.

The heads of the three units of the Indonesian Armed Forces and the national police chief were also among the dignitaries present at the airport. Jakarta Metropolitan Area Governor and Madame Surjiardi Sudirja, as well as Major General Hendro Piryono, commander of the Jakarta area military command, were also present to greet President and Madame Suharto upon their return.

Commentary Views Efforts on Disputed Islands

BK1907041093 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed to bring the issue of disputed Sipadan and Ligitan islands to the negotiating table. The two countries' senior officials and experts will hold talks on the issue without any time limit. However, during talks between President Suharto and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed in Langkawi on Saturday, the two leaders expressed hope that such talks will be concluded by the end of this year. The outcome of the senior officials' talks will then be discussed at the level of ministers who are in charge of the joint commission. If the ministers still cannot agree, the issue will be brought to a higher level, namely between the two countries' heads of state.

The issue of the two disputed islands is indeed a thorn in the side in the current friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. In 1969, both Indonesia and Malaysia agreed to maintain the status quo of the two islands. They agreed not to conduct activities which could be intrepreted as trying to change the islands' status. However, Malaysia often protested via diplomatic channels when Indonesian warships were seen patrolling in the area. Meanwhile, Indonesia did the same if Malaysian warships appeared near the islands. The two sides then agreed to discuss their differences of opinion on the ownership of the two islands, located between East Kalimantan and Sabah, in October 1991 after the issue was put on the back burner for about 22 years.

Two meetings have thus far been held after the talks were resumed. What we must underline from the recent meeting between President Suharto and his counterpart Mahathir Mohamed in Langkawi is that the two sides have agreed to solve the issue peacefully without external interference or international arbitration. The two countries also agreed to follow the current negotiating procedure without taking any action beyond what is stipulated in the joint accord. The two countries' determination to solve the disputed islands in a bilateral manner must indeed be cherished because experience in other parts of the world has shown that third party interference will prolong and worsen the dispute. Being ASEAN member countries, Indonesia and Malaysia must also uphold the good reputation of the Southeast Asian regional grouping which has become the epitome of regional cooperation among the international community.

Daily on Need To Settle Disputes With Malaysia

BK1907095693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 19 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] REPUBLIKA discusses relations between Indonesia and Malaysia, which share many cultural and religious similarities. Geographic proximity is another factor that makes relations between the two nations closer. However, it must be admitted that there are also frictions in bilateral relations, such as the issues of Indonesian workers in Malaysia as well as the Sipadan and Sigitan islands located between East Malaysia and East Kalimantan. Against the background of smooth bilateral relations and occasional frictions, last week's visit to Malaysia by President Suharto indeed carried a special meaning. It is true that these frictions must be removed because if they are not solved comprehensively, the two countries will suffer the consequences in the long term. Therefore, REPUBLIKA stresses the need to find an early solution to any existing disputes so as not to create a burden for the younger generation.

Jakarta Considers Sending Troops to Bosnia

BK1607150693 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1417 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Jakarta, July 16 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia is still considering to send troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina but [is] unable to send one full battalion, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said here Thursday.

A techical discussion has been held between Minister Alatas, Defence Minister Edi Sudrajat, and the Indonesian Armed Forces chief, General Feisal Tanjung, but the result of the discussion still has to be reported to the president for a decision, he told a press conference after meeting President Suharto at the presidential residence.

Seventeen Islamic nations attending a special session of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) on Bosnia-Herzegovina held in Islamabad, pledged Tuesday to send more than 20,000 troops to the UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia. The Iranian Government has offered 10,000 troops as part of the multinational Muslim troops pledged by the OIC to protect safe areas for the Bosnian Muslims.

In the previous meeting of the organization in Karachi, OIC agreed to provide financial assistance for the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. According to the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the UNPROFOR needs at least 34,000 soldiers to protect the safe havens in Bosnia.

A number of Islamic nations has also offered to send troops to the war-torn country. Pakistan has pledged 3,000 personnel, Malaysia 1,500 personnel, Bangladesh 1,220 personnel, and Tunisia 1,000 personnel. Turkey has also pledged a brigade comprising personnel ranging from 1,500 to 2,000, while Palestine has offered 1,000 of its troops.

OIC has also decided to send envoys to Bosnia-Herzegovina to observe the recent situation in the seethed [as received] country.

The Indonesian Ulemas Council (MUI) welcomes the government plan to send troops to Bosnia. Its chairman, Hasan Basri, said here Thursday night that MUI is currently waiting for application forms from Bosnia to help more than 3,000 orphans.

Three Bosnian Muslim activists have asked MUI to give humanitarian assistance and adopt some 120,000 orphans. Hasan Basri said that an Indonesian noted entrepreneur has expressed his readiness to help 1,000 orphans. While the MUI is still looking for foster parents for 2,000 other orphans.

The council will coordinate a financial aid as much as 35 dollars for each orphan monthly, which will be sent to Bosnia regularly.

Pro-Bosnia Students Demonstrate Outside UN Building

BK1707060293 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 9 Jul 93 p 2

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Around 100 students protested outside the United Nations building yesterday, denouncing the world body for doing little to stop the killing of Bosnian Muslims.

"We condemn the ignorance, hypocrisy and the incapability of the United Nations in halting the Serbian and Croatian forces' brutality against the Bosnian people," was part of the statement read by Makhfudi, one of the group's leaders, before Akiko Naitoyuge, assistant to the UN resident representative.

Naitoyuge refused to comment on the protest.

The students brandished more than a dozen posters, some of which read "Death to the Serbs and Croats", "We Hate Butrus Butrus-Ghali", "Dissolve the UN, We Don't Trust It" and "Bosnia's Blood Is Ours." Others read "Bosnia Needs Arms" and "UN, Right or Wrong, You're Still Wrong".

The group which calls itself the Indonesian Students Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina, condemned members of the UN Security Council which abstained during a vote last week on a resolution to lift an arms embargo in Bosnia.

Five non-aligned countries in the Council which sponsored the resolution—Cape Verde, Djibouti, Morocco, Pakistan and Venezuela only won the support of the United States during the vote. The other nine nations—Brazil, Britain, China, France, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Russia and Spain—abstained.

The protest is the latest of a series against diplomatic missions in Jakarta in the past two weeks. Last week, four different groups protested against Washington's raid on Iraq.

Syaugi, who led yesterday's demonstration, said the UN no longer commands respect from the international community due to its foot- dragging on the Bosnian conflict.

The students also demanded that the UN immediately call off a peace plan introduced by international mediators which they charged inflicted great losses on the Bosnian Government and its people.

Philippines

Government Opposes Militarization of Spratlys

HK1707051093 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] The government has stressed that it opposes the strengthening of military forces in the South China Sea in reaction to reports that China has been constructing an airstrip in the area. Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino has said the airstrip will enable China to be near the Spratly Islands.

Issues regarding the South China Sea will again be discussed at the foreign ministers' meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations from 23-24 July in Singapore. Six countries, namely the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei have made claims on the islands.

Envoys To Explore Russian Military Purchase

HK1907030493 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 19 Jul 93 p 16

[Report by Wilfredo G. Reyes]

[Text] In a continuing quest to explore all potential, alternative sources of military hardware for the military's modest modernisation program, a joint Department of National Defense-Armed Forces of the Philippines (DND-AFP) delegation left for Moscow yesterday to evaluate the viability of procuring select Russian military hardware.

Commo. Dario Fajardo led the delegation, composed of Navy Capt. Rex Robles, Cmdr. Rey Verdejo, Army Col. Cristolito Balaoing, as well as Air Force Cols. Alfonso delos Santos and Benigno Katindoy.

Earlier reports had indicated Manila's interest in Moscow's fighter air-craft, such as the MiG-29 and the SU-27, the "Osa" class missile-armed fast naval attack craft and armored fighting vehicles (AFVs).

Defense Secretary Renato de Villa clarified, however, Commo. Fajardo's party, which is not authorized to make official commitments, will "just look around and inspect the equipment they (Russians) are willing to sell." Specifically, the delegation aims to "inspect, observe and evaluate the capabilities" and suitability of Russian equipment to the AFP's requirements and standards.

For his part, AFP chief-of-staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia said the group will pay particular interest on the Russian fast attack craft, "because we cannot afford to buy destroyers and cruisers."

He added the delegation's mission includes ascertaining the guarantee of spare parts.

Various defense journals have remarked that Russian military equipment, while cheap and sturdy, suffer from an unreliable supply of spare parts.

Moreover, Russian hardware still entail prohibitive costs for a cash-strapped economy like the Philippines. For instance, the SU-27 multi-role fighter sells at US$30 million per unit.

One DND source remarked that Commo. Fajardo's delegation would explore all possible procurement schemes, including counter-trade and long-term, low-interest payments.

He added that all things considered, Russian equipment still offer "an attractive alternative." They are cheap, by current standards, just as political concessions now that the Cold War is over, unlike our traditional source of equipment."

Government Launches Drive To Disband Private Armies

HK1607134993 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 16 Jul 93

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] A general order was issued today by the Department of Interior and Local Government [DILG] that seems related to the recent spate of heinous crimes in various parts of the country, and its message is: Dismantle all private armies in the shortest possible time.

[Begin DILG Secretary Rafael Alunan recording, in English] Immediately, without delay, disband all notorious private armed groups. [end recording]

The DILG gave only 60 days to the Philippine National Police [PNP] to disband all private armies nationwide. The order was issued by Alunan this morning in a command conference in Camp Crame [PNP headquarters]

The deadline is 9 September. The campaign is called Operation Disbandment, which will be led by each regional commander all over the archipelago.

[Begin unidentified police official recording, in English] We have given all the regional commanders the prerogative to come up with their own implementing plans as suited to their different areas of operation. [end recording]

There are three types of private armies, according to the PNP's classification. The first are the armed groups, second are the armed groups of politicians or warlords, and third are the paramilitary forces or Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Units which are used in illegal activities.

The PNP still has no exact number of the private armies in the country. But Alunan said each region has at least one private army. Among the areas which the campaign will concentrate on are Mindanao and the controversial Laguna town of Calauan.

Thailand

Students Protest U.S. 'Pressure' on Drug Patent

BK1807070493 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 18 Jul 93 p 28

[Text] Winyu Sukphet, the president of the Chulalongkon University Student Club, disclosed on 17 July that the Student Federation of Thailand [SFT] will deliver a protest note to the United States through the U.S. Embassy at 1100 on 18 July. The note protests U.S. pressure for Thailand to amend the Patent Act to benefit the U.S. drug business. The application of such pressure is despicable and interferes in Thailand's internal affairs.

According to Winyu, the SFT feels that the United States has no justification to use the threat of trade retaliations under Article 301 to force Thailand to amend its patent law in order to help solve U.S. economic recession on grounds that Thailand enjoys trade surplus vis-a-vis the United States and Thai patent law does not conform with international norms. The fact is the U.S. trade deficit against Thailand does not take into account overall trade volume, such as aviation rights Thailand granted the United States or purchase of F-16 aircraft. The drug part of the Thai patent law already meets with international practice. Therefore, the U.S. claims are false.

Winyu said: "The SFT appeals to the government to release to Thai people information pertaining to drug patents and likely repercussions. The people should have a part in deciding their own fate and future. The SFT appeals for reconsideration of the cabinet resolutions concerned. It opposes amendment of the patent act as demanded by the United States. If the government refuses to safeguard the people's interests the SFT will join students throughout the country to oppose this matter."

Software Protection in 3 Areas Unresolved

BK1907020793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jul 93 p B12

[Text] THAILAND and the United States are still far apart on the deeper definition of computer software protection with three major issues unresolved, a Commerce Ministry source said.

The source, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the unsettled issues regarding computer software protection involve Thai-version computer software, reverse engineering and personal use.

The Cabinet last Tuesday approved proposed amendments on the copyright law which extends protection to computer software categorized under artistic and literary works.

According to the source, Thailand won't regard the translation of English computer software into Thai as a copyright violation.

The source said that Thailand's stance is based on the fact that the translation does not lead to a new creation. As a result, the translation of English computer software to Thai should not be labelled as infringement of copyright.

The United States meanwhile cited that reverse engineering—or the practice of taking apart programmes to discover the formula—is strictly prohibited. Any attempts at reverse engineering will be regarded as copyright violation by Washington.

Thailand sees it differently according to the source. He said it requires sophisticated engineering expertise to develop new products from reverse engineering.

Therefore, both the practice and the new products resulting from the process should not be regarded as infringement.

The United States also prohibits software buyers from copying more than once for personal use, an idea Thailand rejects.

"It is unlikely (that we can) restrict to only one copy when a person buys a particular software," the source said. "Besides, the Berne Convention allows copying more than once for personal use."

The Cabinet earlier approved the move to become a signatory of the Berne Convention.

Meanwhile, a draft of the copyright act released to THE NATION gives a definition of copyrighted works as literary, dramatic, artistic, audio-visual, cinematographic works, sound and video broadcasting works.

The draft copyright act provides copyright protection throughout the author's life plus 50 years after death in the case of literary works, and 50 years after the day of creation or publication in the case of artistic works.

The draft act regards reproduction and adaptation of literary works as infringement of copyright. It also prohibits any rental of the original or a copy of cinematographic works.

The copyright draft also prevents anyone from producing, broadcasting and providing sound and visual images for commercial purposes.

Any reproduction or adaptation and rental of the original, or a copy of copyrighted computer programmes, is also prohibited.

Any selling, distributing and importing for any purposes other than private use on copyrighted works will also be regarded as infringement, according to the draft act.

Only reproductions for education, research and study, personal use and religious and social-welfare purposes are not regarded as violating the copyrights, the draft said.

The dratt also provides protection for performers. Performers can enjoy exclusive rights on their performances released on audio and/or video broadcasts a performance recording and its reproduction, the draft said.

Performers are given exclusive rights protection for 50 years after the recording of their performance, according to the draft.

The draft also allows for the setting up of a copyright committee, chaired by the Commerce Ministry permanent secretary.

The committee, according to the draft, will partly promote copyright protection and also act as a forum to set copyright royalties.

Those who infringe on copyrigbt works are subject to a fine of Bt [baht] 20,00-Bt500,000, or six months to four years imprisonment. The punishment varies depending on the level of infringement and the purpose.

The draft copyright act approved by the Cabinet on Tuesday will next go to the Parliament for debate.

Editorial Urges Delay in Patent Act Amendment

BK1907102393 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 19 Jul 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Surrendering to the United States Means Surrendering to the World"]

[Text] Nobody knows if the Commerce Ministry is acting with full consciousness or out of naivete in making preparations to amend the Pharmaceutical Patent Act as demanded by the United States. The ministry sent copies of the amended clauses to the United States several times for approval. The amendment of the legislation, made at the expense of the country's sovereignty, will deprive state mechanisms of the power to deal with any foreign pharmaceutical companies. As a result, Thailand will be exploited by pharmaceutical companies worldwide.

The United States is launching a heavy offensive to force Thailand to sign quickly a new bilateral trade agreement and amend all the laws and regulations which, it feels, give no protection to U.S. copyrights and intellectual property. At the same time, it calls for unlimited accesses to the Thai services market. If Thailand refuses to comply with the U.S. demand, it will be put on the watchlist (of countries about to be punished) and 24 Thai export goods will be subject to special tariff rates.

It is obvious that the United States is pressing Thailand harder and harder to force it to yield to the U.S. demand by the end of this year, before the Uruguay Round of GATT talks comes up with a new international trade agreement that will be applied the world over. In other words, if applied, the new GATT agreement will not allow the United States to take advantage of Thailand.

It is true that we are dealing with the United States. Both the government and House of Representatives, however, should realize that the amendment of our Pharmaceutical Patent Act will open the door not only for the United States, but also for the EC members, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and other countries worldwide to take advantage of us. We agree with the idea of providing retroactive protection for medicines for a period of four years, not seven years, and the clause on the Pharmaceutical Patent Committee should be left untouched.

The total value of the pharmaceutical (wholesale) trade is estimated at 17 billion baht per year, with an annual growth rate of 12 percent. According to statistics, Thailand imported medicines worth 4.454 billion baht in 1992, a 19.5 percent increase over the previous year. We recommend that the government delay the amendment of the law until the new GATT agreement is proclaimed. If Thailand amends the law before the new world trade agreement becomes effective, it will be plunged into a position where it is vulnerable to exploitation by the United States and other countries worldwide.

We want to remind all concerned that it is unwise to refuse obstinately to amend our law. We should do so to a certain extent, but with conditions and dignity. We also want to appeal to the Thai people to take joint retaliatory measures against the United States should it put too much pressure on our country.

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800 Copyright Violators Arrested This Year

BK1807052493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] The Government has arrested some 800 violators against intellectual property rights since the beginning of this year. Deputy Commerce Minister Churin Laksanawisit said during the period, more than 300,000 pirated cassettes and videotapes have been confiscated with two machines. He stressed that the government will continue to suppress intellectual property right violations. The Government is confident that the violations will gradually decrease as many parties have cooperated in the crackdown on them. The cabinet has recently approved amendment to the 1978 Copyright Act to keep pace with domestic and external changes. The amendment was seen as significant step to provide more protection to intellectual property rights.

Phnom Penh: No Thai Involvement in Temple Seizure

BK1707030093 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jul 93 p 7

[Text] The interim Cambodian government has admitted there was no evidence to back an earlier claim that the Thai military assisted the Khmer Rouge in the seizure of the ancient temple of Preah Vihear last week, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Quoting a report from the Thai Embassy in Phnom Penh, Deputy Foreign Ministry spokesman Rawi Hongpraphat said the interim Cambodian government had looked into the case and found no clear evidence of Thai involvement in the incident.

The report said Cambodian Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut called on Thai Ambassador Sunai Bunyasiriphan in Phnom Penh yesterday to inform him of the findings.

The prince was quoted as saying that the interim government would also inform other concerned parties of the outcome of its investigation, Lt Rawi said.

But there was no mention of an apology from the prince.

The Cambodian government's spokesman, Khieu Khanarit, earlier accused Thailand's Burapha Task Force of helping the Khmer Rouge in their seizure of the Preah Vihear temple from Phnom Penh troops.

The Thai Foreign Ministry immediately denied the charge, pointing out that the guerrillas approached the hill-top temple from the Cambodian side of the border, without passing through Thailand.

Prasong To Brief on Cambodia at ASEAN Meeting

BK1707075293 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri will represent ASEAN in briefing the Cambodian problem to ASEAN dialogue partners at the 26th ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting in Singapore. The Cambodian problem will be one of the main topics of discussion at the meeting, which will begin tomorrow at the senior official's level and run to 28 July. Foreign Minister Prasong has been chosen to talk about the Camboidan issue because he knows the problem very well and Thailand has been most affected by the problem.

According to Permanent Secretary for Foriegn Affairs Pracha Khunakasem, ASEAN will not start any move concerning Cambodia for the time being as it agreed that the Cambodians themsleves should be left to solve their own political problem. The permanent secretary says Thailand places greater importance on ASEAN in its foreign policy. He says ASEAN has great potential to cooperate more on political and economic areas on a continuous basis.

The ASEAN dialogue partners are the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, and the European Community. The 26th ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting will also be attended by representatives from Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Laos, China, and Russia.

Defense Minister on Cambodian Border Situation

BK1807073893 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak believes the situation along the Cambodian border will be peaceful if the Khmer factions could reconcile their differences and form a permanent government. He spoke with newsmen about repercussions from the conflict in Cambodia.

[Begin recording] [Wichit] If a Cambodian government materializes which is able to control political and military affairs, the problems which affect Thailand will be reduced. If they are able to maintain control and have money to spend for the armed forces and infrastructure—make a living—and can open the border points for trade, the problems will diminish.

[Unidentified reporter] What instruction have you given to the army commander regarding his plan to visit Cambodia to meet Cambodian military leaders?

[Wichit] It is good for military leaders to have contacts. At times, good relations between the armed forces or armed units are helpful to the government. This is because to carry out certain policies it is necessary to have the cooperation of all agencies, be they the Foreign Ministry, the Defense Ministry, or the Interior Ministry.

[Second unidentified reporter] What can be done with the problem of Cambodian people crossing the border to rob and kill Thai villagers?

[Wichit] The soldiers and the civilians are evaluating the situation to find out what the real causes are—personal disputes, trade blackmailing, or whatever. There are Thai who live in Cambodia and there are Cambodians who once fled to live in Thailand and since returned to Cambodia. These people are familiar with areas in Thailand and can be the ones who cause problems. [end recording]

Prasong Comments on Results of PRC Trip

BK1807075293 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 18 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri and his delegation of businessmen returned home last night after concluding a seven-day visit to Shanghai, Chengdu, and Shenzhen. Upon arrival at the Don Muang Airport, the foreign minister told reporters that during the visit to the three cities, the Thai businessmen in his delegation had contacted Chinese officials and entrepreneurs to listen to their briefings on the economic, social, trade, and investment situation in China and legal and customs regulations.

He said that the Thai businessmen were satisfied with the results of the visit. What they have got and learned during the visit will be used as information for making decisions on trade and investment cooperation with China.

Prasong said that he had met with Chinese officials in charge of business affairs and members of local economic and trade committees during the visit. He tried to persuade the Chinese side to invest in Thailand and to promote tourism between the two countries.

He said that he will propose that the government set up a consulate in Shanghai. Shanghai is a trade city. There are frequent contacts between people from various circles in Thailand and Shanghai. The Shanghai mayor, vice mayor, and the Economic and Trade Committee also supported Thailand's plan to set up a consulate in the city.

The foreign minister also said that Sichuan province is a big province with a population of over 100 million. The Thai businessmen were happy for a chance to learn of the market and business situation there. The last stop of his delegation's trip was Shenzhen City. Foreign Minister Prasong said that the visit provided a good chance for Thai businessmen to explore the market of the southwestern part of Southern China and to expand trade and investment with China. The businessmen will pay more observation trips to China. The foreign minister will continue to lead similar delegations to visit China in the future.

PRC's NPC Chairman Qiao Shi To Visit 1-7 Aug

BK1807102193 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 16 Jul 93 p 8

[Excerpt] According to an informed source, Qiao Shi, chairman of the National People's Congress [NPC] Standing Committee, will pay an official visit to Thailand from 1 to 7 August to strengthen the friendly cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries. Qiao Shi's visit will include trips to Phuket island in southern Thailand and the capital city of Bangkok. Thailand will be one of the stops on his 23-day trip to five ASEAN countries beginning on 20 July. Aside from Thailand, Qiao Shi will also visit Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. This will be his first overseas trip after his election in March as the chairman of the NPC Standing Committee. Qiao Shi will have an audience with His Majesty the King and will meet with Parliament President Marut Bunnak and other Thai Government leaders in Bangkok. Marut led a parliamentary delegation to visit China in April this year. [passage omitted]

Itinerary for Premier's 25 Aug-2 Sep PRC Trip

BK1707094993 Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese 17 Jul 93 p 17

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai will pay an official visit to China from 25 August to 2 September. His delegation, comprised of 200 members from public and private sectors, will visit Beijing, Shanghai, Haikou, and Kunming for talks with Chinese leaders on bilateral trade, investment cooperation, and ways to strengthen bilateral relations. Zheng Minru, chairman of the Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce; deputy chairmen Wu Yuyin and Ding Chiajun, and other executive members will be invited to join the delegation.

Prime Minister Chuan and his entourage will leave for Beijing aboard a special flight on 25 August. He will pay courtesy calls on Chinese leaders such as Li Peng, Jiang Zemin, and Qiao Shi on 26 August. The Thai delegation and the Chinese hosts will hold economic discussions on 27 August. The delegation then will fly to Shanghai on the afternoon of 28 August. On 29 August, the delegation will hold economic discussions with their Chinese hosts and visit the Pudong economic zone. The delegation will fly to Haikou on the afternoon of 30 August. On 31 August, the delegation will visit Haikou's economic construction projects and the special economic zone. On the morning of 1 September, the delegation will fly to Kunming. On 2 September, they will visit Ruili City near the Chinese-Burmese border. The prime minister and his entourage will then leave for Bangkok aboard a special flight in the evening.

Prime Minister Chuan's 200-member delegation will be comprised of 50 government officials and mass media representatives and 150 representatives from the Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade, the Federation of Thai Industries, the Thai Bankers' Association, and other trade associations.

Chief Whip Denies House Dissolution Imminent

BK1807032893 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jul 93 p A2

[Text] GOVERNMENT chief whip Thoetphong Chayanan yesterday dismissed speculation of an imminent House dissolution saying he saw no reason why Prime Minister Chuan Likphai would do so as his administration remained stable.

Thoetphong, a PM's Office minister, said relations between the five government coalition parties were still good after the various leaders had cleared up some misunderstandings.

"There will be no House dissolution at least in the near future because there is not enough cause to warrant such action," the chief whip said. "Government parties are getting along fine."

Social Action Party leader Montri Phongphanit, in his latest outburst of anti-Democrat remarks, threatened to pull out of the coalition if the government failed to shore up crop prices next year.

SAP leaders have griped over what they described as the "condescending attitude" adopted by the Democrat Party toward Cabinet members from their party, saying their opinions and advice had been largely ignored.

Montri was apparently annoyed by what he described as an intentional delay in the procedure to return assets seized from him and nine other "unusually rich" politicians by a military council in 1992.

Hardliners of the Phalang Tham Party this week also criticized their leaders for being "too compromising" as a partner in the coalition government and failure to honour election promises, such as the proposed election of provincial governors.

Thoetphong described the coalition government performance as proceeding smoothly in the current House session, saying the government had handled the no-confidence debate by the opposition adroitly and managed to pass a number of important legislation.

The chief whip said the government had also taken into consideration the views expressed by MPs to find ways to solve problems facing the country.

MP Suphat Thammapetch (Democrat-Phatthalung), speaking to reporters yesterday, denied that he had received the "green light" from senior Democrat members before criticizing the Social Action Party for its anti-Democrat stance.

"I was only expressing my person opinion. And I was never reprimanded by senior party members for the criticism made in good faith against the Social Action

Party," Suphat said. "I always speak my mind when I feel it the right thing to do."

He said he believed the misunderstandings between the Social Action and Democrat parties would be resolved after SAP leader Montri Phongphanit returned from his overseas trip next week.

"As for me, I will refrain from criticizing the Social Action Party for the time being," Suphat said.

Senior members of the Social Action and Democrat parties said they had reached an understanding for members of both parties to stop publicly criticising each another.

Army Chief Calls Australian Visa Refusal 'Insult'

BK1707023893 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit yesterday attacked the Australian Government decision to bar Lt Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi from entering the country describing the action as tantamount to an insult to Thailand.

"I consider it an insult to Thai officials. Our country has lost face (over the incident)," said the army commander.

Former 1st army commander Lt Gen Chainarong led forces directly involved in the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations in May last year.

Gen Wimon said the Australian Government might have obtained the wrong information from certain groups in making its decision.

He said he did not think the Australian army was involved as the military relationship between the two countries was very strong.

The army commander said he would not mind if the person barred from entering the country was a narcotics trafficker or a smuggler, but the person in question in this case is a senior Thai officer with the Thai Army.

Lt Gen Chainarong is now commander of the Army Advanced Academic Institute.

The general was removed as commander of the powerful 1st Army Region three months after the crackdown on pro-democracy protesters.

Gen Wimon said Canberra should show respect for Thai officials still in active service.

The commander said he did not know what information the Australian Government used to justify its decision.

"Is it suitable (for the embassy) to publicly display the names on its blacklist?" he asked, urging reporters to convey his message to the Australian Embassy in Bangkok.

Lt-Gen Chainarong yesterday downplayed the action and its effect on relations between the two countries' armed forces.

He said he accepted the right of the Australian Government to reject his request for a visa for a planned trip two months ago.

Although the rejection was unexplained by the Australian Government, it is believed to be in connection with Lt Gen Chainarong's role in ordering the crackdown on demonstrators.

"I accept Australia's right to deny me a visa. I do not want this to affect or become an obstacle to, the good relations between the Thai and Australian armies, the two countries' armed forces and the two nations," he said.

The two armies operate joint military exercises at the platoon level and have an educational exchange programme for Thai military officers to study in Australian army colleges.

Lt Gen Chainarong said he did not know the real reason for the rejection of his application for a visa for an official trip scheduled from May 19 to June 2.

He said he was to have headed a group of Army College students on the Army-approved trip.

Lt Gen Chainarong said he travelled to the United States and Singapore without any problem at about the same time.

News reports initially said the general planned to travel to Australia in a private capacity in association with a weightlifting team.

He said he did not think he was refused a visa because of his role in the May violence because, as people were saying, the event took place some time ago.

He said he wondered why the rejection was publicised two months later.

Lt Gen Chainarong said the rejection would not serve as a lesson for coup-makers as there was no connection between the two events.

He refused comment on Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet's comment that the rejection was politically motivated.

Right-Wingers Protest Visa Refusal

BK1907015993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jul 93 p A3

[Text] A RIGHT-WING group yesterday laid black wreaths in front of the Australian Embassy to protest that government's denial of an entry to a general involved in the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters last year.

The group said its brief rally outside the embassy was also a protest against a pro-democracy group which applauded the rejection of a visa application by Institute of Army Academics Commandant Lt Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi.

Woradet Amonworaphiphat, chairman of the Thai Ru Rak Samakkhi (United Thais), denounced members of the Confederation for Democracy as "traitors" for having presented bouquets to the embassy.

Noradet and about 100 people, who appeared to be between 30 and years of age, arrived at the embassy about 7 pm in a bus.

After laying four wreaths, they sang the national and royal anthems. The group left the embassy about an hour later.

Only one junior embassy official came outside to watch the group, whose activities were closely monitored by a team of policemen from Thung Mahamek police station.

Woradet told reporters said his group considered the Australian decision contemptuous of the Thai army, of which Chainarong was a senior army officer.

"And we want to express our dissatisfaction against the Confederation for Democracy," Woradet said.

"The confederation's action should be deemed that of traitors."

Members of the pro-democracy movement presented bouquets to the embassy on Thursday and praised the visa denial as a justified action which would serve as a deterrent against dictatorial acts in Thailand in the future.

Woradet said his group was not paid to protest at the embassy, but initiated its own action to protect the country's dignity.

"We love our country and don't want others to trample on us," Woradet said.

The group leader said it was unjustified for Australia to deny Chainarong's entry because of his role in the May bloodshed last year.

"Chainarong has not yet been proven guilty," Woradet said.

As commander of the First Army Region, Chainarong was said to have been in command of the forces during the crackdown on pro-democracy protests last year, in which scores were killed and hundreds injured.

He was seen inspecting troops deployed on Ratchadamnoen Avenue, the site of the main protest, at the height of the political crisis.

Chainarong was demoted to his current post by the Anan government, which was set up following the May crisis. Chainarong applied for a visa to lead students from his institute on a sight-seeing trip to Australia and New Zealand from May 19-June 2. All other members of the group were granted visas.

Sources said yesterday that Woradet's group also planned to stage a protest at Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri's house because he failed to retaliate against the Australian action.

But Woradet's group abandoned the plan when they could not find their way to Prasong's house, according to the sources.

Following the leak of the visa rejection by REUTERS on Tuesday, the embassy tightened its security amid Thai-language press reports that the embassy had received a bomb threat.

The protest by Woradet's group came a few days after Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak Suntharawet, a rightist conservative, warned of possible anti-Australia backlash here by right-wing groups.

Vietnam

Do Muoi, Doan Khue, Le Mai Meet U.S. Visitors

BK1607153293 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 16—General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Do Muoi received here today a US presidential mission on a current visit to Vietnam.

The mission led by Mr. Hershel Gober, deputy secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, and Lt. Gen. Michael E. Ryan, assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, comprises a number of officials from the National Security Council, the State Department and the Defence Department, and representatives of four big US veterans' organizations. The delegation arrived here yesterday to exchange with the Vietnamese side on issues relating to the search of Americans missing in action (MIA) in the Vietnam war and other issues on bilateral relations.

The US guests expressed their satisfaction over Vietnam's active, effective cooperation in the settlement of the MIA issue in recent years.

They stressed that the POW/MIA issue is major concern of the US president and people, and asked Vietnam to speed up its cooperation with the US to settle the unaccounted for MIA cases.

General Secretary Do Muoi welcomed the high-level delegation of the United States, and reaffirmed Vietnam's goodwill to continue to cooperate and create favourable conditions for the US side to finish the solvement [as received] of the outstanding issues of American servicemen reportedly missing in action during the Vietnam war.

General Secretary Do Muoi, welcomed President B. Clinton's statement of July 2nd as a significant move of the US Government in its relations with Vietnam.

After expressing his deep sympathy with the concern of the US people and President B. Clinton personally about the MIA issue, General Secretary Do Muoi clearly pointed out that for the sake of the US and Vietnamese peoples, and for peace and stability in the region and the world as a whole, Vietnam and the US should close the past, look forward to the future and soon normalize relations.

General Secretary Do Muoi also welcomed the presence of representatives of the US veterans' organizations, and expressed his wish that the veterans' organizations in the two countries should have relations of friendship and cooperation so as to joint in healing the wounds of war.

Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai was also present at the reception.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1005 GMT, in a report on the U.S. delegation's visit, adds: "In closed-door meetings Friday with Defense Minister Doan Khue and Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai, the U.S. officials asked for greater access to Vietnamese military archives, faster investigations of the remaining 92 MIA 'discrepancy cases,' rapid repatriation of remains and more help with search efforts involving Laos, U.S. and Vietnamese sources said.

["Vietnamese officials pledged to meet the requests, and in turn spelled out their own needs for humanitarian assistance from the United States, the sources said.

["'It was a good meeting,' said a U.S. source after the talks with Mai. 'But what we want is concrete results.'"

["'We will try our utmost to cooperate,' Khue said after his talks, adding however that it was difficult to say how long the 'complex task' of accounting for MIAs would take to resolve."]

U.S. To Post Diplomats To Assist in POW Search

BK1707071693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0630 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi, July 17 (AFP)—The United States will post diplomats to Vietnam for the first time since the Vietnam War to assist the U.S. military task force seeking to account for missing servicemen, U.S. and Vietnamese officials announced here Saturday.

Three U.S. State Department officers will be sent on temporary duty to Hanoi "to support American citizens, including families of our missing and the Vietnam veterans who have been invited by the Vietnamese government to visit Vietnam," U.S. Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Hershel Gober said.

"These officers would free up our Joint Task Force personnel to concentrate exclusively on POW/MIA (prisoner-of-war/missing-in-action) accounting," he said after two days of talks in Hanoi, which has no diplomatic relations with Washington.

Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai said Vietnam had accepted the U.S. proposal and that the two sides would work out the timing and other modalities.

The mid-level officers would be the first U.S. diplomats posted to Hanoi since the closure of the U.S. consulate here in 1954, when Vietnam gained its independence from France but was split between the communist north and capitalist south.

Talks 'Frank and Constructive'

BK1707154193 Hanoi VNA in English 1521 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 17—A US presidential mission continued its visit to Vietnam from July 15.

The mission led by Mr. Hershel Gober, deputy secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, and Lt. Gen Michael E. Ryan, assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, comprises representatives of four big US veterans' organisations, a number of officials from the National Security Council, the State Department and the Defence Department.

While here, the mission called on General Secretary Do Muoi and met with Gen. Doan Khue, minister of Defence Gen. Bui Thien Ngo, minister of the Interior Tran Quang Co, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Senior Lt. Gen. Tran Van Quang, president of the Vietnam Veterans Association. It also had talks with a Vietnamese delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai.

The meetings and talks took place in frank and constructive atmosphere. The US delegation affirmed President Clinton's wish to normalize relations between the two countries, and to have further cooperation from Vietnam to accelerate the settlement of the MIA issue with a view to helping the Americans, especially the veterans and MIA's families, to heal their war wounds, support the president's policy to move forward in relations with Vietnam. The delegation expressed thanks to Vietnam for its humanitarian cooperation in the MIA issue in the past and wish for further cooperation in the coming time.

The Vietnamese side welcomed and highly valued President Bill Clinton's July 2nd statement, considering it a positive step, contributing to the building of a new relationship between the U.S. and Vietnam, conforming to the interests of the two people and common trend in the world. The Vietnamese side affirmed that it looked the MIA issue as a humanitarian one, and that the government and people of Vietnam cooperated, is cooperating and will cooperate with the U.S. in order to solve the issue to the highest possible level through the established mechanism.

Before leaving here for Ho Chi Minh City, Mr. Lord and Mr. Mai held a joint press conference.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the positive results of the visit. Asked about the US intention to send three diplomat to help the US MIA Office in Hanoi solve issues relating to visits to Vietnam by American MIA families and war veterans, both Mr. Lord and Mr. Mai affirmed that that was a measure to support the MIA office, and that was requested by the US side, and favourably considered by Vietnam in conformity with its humanitarian policy.

Asked about the position of the issue of human rights in the US-Vietnamese relations, Mr. Lord said that the US side expressed its concern about that issue, but did not consider it a prerequisite for normalizing relations between the two countries. For his part, Mr. Mai stressed that Vietnam was prepared to talk with all countries, including the US on any issues on the principle of equality, respect for indeependence, soveriegnty and without interference into each other's internal affairs.

MIA Delegation Holds News Conference

BK1807103793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Report by station correspondent Diep Anh on news conference regarding the visit by the U.S. presidential delegation on the MIA issue, held on 17 July in Hanoi; Le Mai's recorded remarks are within quotation marks—portions recorded]

[Text] A U.S. presidential delegation continued its visit to Hanoi from 15 July. The delegation was led by Mr. Hershel Gober, deputy secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific Affairs; and three-star General Michael E. Ryan, assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The delegation completed its talks in Hanoi and is scheduled to make a stopover in Ho Chi Minh City on its way home.

The key objective of the delegation's visit is to stress the need for further progress toward the settlement of the U.S. POW-MIA issue. Also participating in the delegation were leading officials of the four largest war veterans organizations in the United States. Representatives of the League of U.S. War Veterans and POW-MIA Families were also invited to join the delegation.

Speaking at an international news conference in Hanoi prior to the conclusion of the delegation's working visit to Hanoi, Mr. Hershel Gober, deputy secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, said:

[Begin Gober recording in English fading into Vietnamese translation] While in Hanoi, the delegation called on General Secretary Do Muoi and met with Minister of Defense Doan Khue; Interior Minister Bui Thien Ngo; Acting Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co; Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai; Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang, president of the Vietnam War Veterans Association; and representatives of the various agencies in charge of U.S. POW-MIA issues under the Vietnamese Defense Ministry and the Vietnam War Veterans Association.

The talks took place in a frank and constructive atmosphere. The two sides presented their views in a clear manner. The delegation was also received by the Joint Task Force, and members of the delegation were impressed by the positive attitude and capabilities of the Joint Task Force personnel.

During its meetings with Vietnamese officials, the delegation emphasized the contents of U.S. President Bill Clinton's 2 July message that the next steps of development in the relations between the two countries will depend first of all on the concrete results of the settlement of the U.S. POW-MIA issue. The delegation attached special importance to the need for greater efforts on the part of Vietnam in four domains as follows: First of all, regarding remains, it is necessary to obtain concrete results through Vietnam's efforts to collect and repatriate remains of U.S. servicemen. Secondly, regarding discrepancy cases, continued efforts must be made to resolve the remaining 92 MIA discrepancy cases and accelerate the investigation into reports on live sightings of Americans after the war. The third issue involves continued cooperation among the United States, Laos, and Vietnam in assisting investigations currently being conducted by those countries along the Vietnam-Laos border. Finally, it is necessary to accelerate efforts to furnish documents relating to the U.S. POW-MIA issue, as well as to provide answers regarding individual cases.

In our meetings, we have received assurances of Vietnam's intention to work cooperatively in all four areas identified in order to make progress, emphasizing the importance that the U.S. side has attached to the treatment of prisoners of war on both sides. Our delegation has briefed U.S. officials on this issue, regarding it as a humanitarian gesture to help Vietnam account for MIA cases. The United States may provide Vietnam with a 3-million-page document collected during the war. The document contains information on Vietnamese military units, diaries or reports on military activities, and other information. The first part of this document has already been provided to the Joint Archives Storage Center.

Regarding those U.S. POW-MIA families that have been invited by the Vietnamese Government to visit Vietnam in order to accelerate efforts to account for POW's and

MIA's there, the U.S. delegation has proposed that three State Department officials be dispatched to Hanoi to coordinate action with the Joint Task Force personnel to effectively account for POW-MIA cases. The U.S. officials in Vietnam are working on the timing and modalities of that agreement.

The delegation also raised the human rights issue and stressed the concern of President Clinton and the American people over this issue. The Vietnamese officials have adopted an open-minded and enthusiastic attitude during our discussions on those issues.

Along with the main objective of this visit, namely pressing for further progress in the search for missing U.S. personnel, the U.S. delegation will also tour Ho Chi Minh City on 17 and 18 July. While there, the delegation will meet with officials in charge of accounting for U.S. prisoners of war and will visit two projects of special humanitarian significance for the U.S. side, namely the Center for Distribution of Artificial Limbs to All and the Amerasian Child Care Center.

The U.S. delegation very highly valued the Vietnamese Government's hospitality and the arrangements it has made for the delegation to meet with Vietnamese officials. [end recording]

Next, Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord expressed his views. He said:

[Begin Winston Lord recording in English fading into Vietnamese translation] At a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai just before this conference, our delegation received a letter from Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh to U.S. President Bill Clinton. We will forward this letter to the U.S. President immediately. I can tell you about the contents of that letter right now. In his letter, President Le Duc Anh very highly values the U.S. President's initiative to unblock Vietnam's application for loans from the IMF. The Vietnamese president is also commited to continuing to give assistance to the U.S. side in its efforts to account for the fates of U.S. servicemen missing in Vietnam. [end recording]

In expressing his views, General Ryan warmly thanked the Vietnamese Government for its cooperation and hospitality. Members of the U.S. delegation answered many questions raised by foreign journalists concerning U.S.-Vietnamese relations and the settlement of the POW-MIA issue.

Afterward, SRV Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai held a news conference to appraise results of the visit to Vietnam by the U.S. delegation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai said: "I think that the visit to Vietnam by the U.S. presidential delegation has scored positive results. We have held talks in a frank and constructive manner. Most of our discussions focused on the MIA issue. I am convinced that with the concrete achievements gained during the visit, efforts to resolve the MIA issue will be accelerated, and better understanding between the American and Vietnamese peoples will result."

Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai then answered many questions asked by reporters.

Answering a question on Vietnam's reaction to a U.S. proposal for U.S. diplomats coming to Vietnam to handle the consular affairs issue, Deputy Minister Le Mai said:

"We will approve the proposal, and as a result work is being done to settle technical matters."

Regarding the possibility of a meeting between the Vietnamese foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state in Singapore to discuss the normalization of relations between the two countries, Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai said:

"It cannot be confirmed now, but it is a possibility."

Answering another question on whether Vietnam can make greater efforts than what is being done currently to help the United States resolve the MIA-POW issue, Deputy Minister Le Mai said:

"Actually, we have been and are doing all we can. However, with the visit of this high-level U.S. presidential delegation, we will pay more attention to the issue, especially the points raised by President Clinton. In this spirit, the Vietnamese Government will put more effort in our work. At present, we already have various agencies that can effectively handle this matter, but with greater efforts and determination, I believe that more results will be attained."

Answering a question on the significance of the U.S. State Department officials' presence in the U.S. delegation, Deputy Minister Le Mai said:

"I think the fact that the U.S. side sent three officials from the State Department to Hanoi to help accelerate the settlement of the MIA issue, especially the requests made by families of MIA and U.S. war veterans, is a good sign. For our part, adhering to our goodwill policy in resolving the MIA issue, we will do our best to meet these requests."

Answering a reporter's question on Vietnam's reaction to the 3-million-page document supplied by the U.S. side as well as its reaction to the human rights issue, Deputy Minister Le Mai asserted:

"Regarding the 3-million-page document, we highly appraise this effort and assistance by President Clinton and the U.S. Government to help Vietnam resolve the MIA-POW issue. As for the human rights issue, I have on many occasions said that Vietnam is ready for conversation on this issue as long as Vietnam is treated as an equal and there is no interference in its internal affairs, as well as showing respect for one another's independence and sovereignty. However, I would like to say here that during this U.S.-Vietnam meeting, we focused only on the MIA-POW issue, and the U.S. side only mentioned human rights, but there was no discussion of the issue."

Number of Visiting U.S. Business Teams Increases

BK1607134893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Ninety-seven United States business teams came to the State Committee of Cooperation and Investment to survey business opportunity and investment capacity in Vietnam in the first half of this year. The number triples the same period last year, taking the Americans to second on the list after the Japanese, who top the list with 108 such visits. The result was mainly due to the easing of the U.S. trade embargo.

Part III of Phan Van Khai Report

BK1607151393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Continuation of "excerpts" of a report read by Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai at the National Assembly's afternoon session on 14 July—recorded]

[Text] Prior to the convening of this National Assembly session, the government has urgently organized the implementation of the party Central Committee's Fifth Plenum resolution on continuation of the socioeconomic renovation and development in the countryside to create an impact for effective implementation of the Ninth National Assembly's Third Session resolutions.

The government has assigned various agencies concerned to urgently prepare for the convening of the government conference at the end of this month to discuss various key tasks, especially the efforts to concretize the party Central Committee's Fifth Plenum resolution and National Assembly's resolutions related to agriculture and the rural economy. Guided by various legal documents and official circulars, we are carrying out the following urgent tasks:

First, we are striving to allot land to peasant households, renovate activities of cooperatives, improve state-run establishments dealing with agriculture and forestry, zone off forest land to develop forests and eliminate trees falling; formulate policies on promotion of agriculture, forestry, and fishery; apply scientific-technological innovations to production in the countryside; change the rural economic structure and diversify occupations; promote industries in the rural areas; increase production output for the local market and export; build the new rural areas and resolve various social issues related to unemployment, hunger, and poverty; and improve the education and public health services while accelerating the family planning program. Efforts are being made to formulate water conservancy development plans for the 1995-2000 period, to promote credits in the rural areas, to stabilize prices for agricultural products, to enforce the new tax laws to strengthen agriculture and rural economy; to stabilize prices, to rearrange private trades, and to promote the role of peasants in the countryside; to supply materials and merchandise to peasants, and to find markets for agricultural goods. We must formulate policies to promote agricultural and forestry production in the mountain regions and ethnic minority zones, to review and design measures to effectively carry out the party Central Committee Political Bureau resolution no. 22 and the Council of Minister's decision no. 72 on socioeconomic development in the mountain regions and ethnic minority zones.

Second, we must continue to develop guidance and supervision to fulfill the 1993 tasks, especially the 10 key tasks set by the government. We must draw on experiences from the implementation of tasks during the first half of 1993 to enhance supervision efficacy with special attention given to the following key and urgent work:

—Provide close guidance to balance the state budget in the second half of this year, curb and contain inflation, and satisfactorily fulfill targets set by the National Assembly.

—Continue to take concrete measures to strengthen state-run business establishments, to develop production at all economic sectors, to resolve difficulties in capitals and marketing, to promote investment and development, to classify priorities for the construction of key and important projects from now to the year 2000.

—Seriously carry out the campaign against smuggling and corruption, take drastic measures against trading of smuggled goods, stabilize prices and the market, improve the people's daily life, extensively launch the movement against hunger and poverty, and promote efforts to amass wealth by legal means.

—Formulate essential measures to expand foreign trade relations after clearing our debts with international financial organizations, accelerate the process of normalizing relations with the United States, supplement various policies and measures aimed at developing the cultural, social, education, and public health domains, strengthening child care and family planning, and eliminate social vices.

—Closely monitor developments at the border areas and on offshore islands while consolidating national defense and security.

Following the government conference at the end of this month—in which the abovementioned issues will be discussed—the government will hold three separate meetings with people's committee chairmen of provinces and municipalities directly subordinated to the central government in three regions, in early August, to discuss concrete measures to satisfactorily implement tasks and to disseminate the orientations and work for the 1994-95 period. This is aimed at triumphantly implementing the Seventh CPV Congress resolution. At these meetings, the government will review its guidance and supervision in the first half of the year to solicit viewpoints from people's committee chairmen of provinces and municipalities.

In September, the government will hold another meeting with mountain provinces to review tasks and discuss measures to effectively implement the party Central Committee Political Bureau's resolution no. 22 and the Council of Ministers' decision no. 72 on socioeconomic development in the mountain regions and ethnic minority zones.

Editorial Views New Laws, Resolutions

BK1607142493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today carried an editorial under the title: Successfully Implement Resolutions and Policies of the Party and the State. The editorial notes: The resolutions and policies of the party and the state have clearly stipulated the process of building and developing our country in the period to come, with objectives and orientations for the rest of this year, for the next few years, and for the period until the year 2000. Cadres and combatants of the armed forces need to heighten consciousness while setting up concrete action plans for each specific stage. This will contribute to the successful implementation of the resolutions and policies of the party and National Assembly. Each agency or unit needs to educate its cadres and combatants to live and work in accordance with the Constitution and the laws while fulfilling combat tasks and being prepared for combat, building a well disciplined and advanced revolutionary army, and renovating the efficiency of mass mobilization tasks. The combatants should actively participate in the production of food grain and foodstuffs, in the task of covering empty lands and bare hills, and in the protection and preservation of forests and the environment. They should also participate in reclaiming waste land and coast land, in building new socioeconomic zones, and in utilizing all potentials of all national defense forces enterprises in responding to the demands of agriculture and the countryside. These demands include the production of equipments and machinery used in cultivation, preservation, processing, and transportation of agricultural products.

Editorial on National Assembly's New Laws

BK1607162393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] On the occasion of yesterday's conclusion of the successful Ninth National Assembly's Third Session, today's NHAN DAN carried an editorial entitled "New Laws Must Be Enforced Properly."

After reviewing all the tasks that had been completed at the National Assembly's third session, the editorial said: Now that we have the laws, they must be enforced properly, and now that we have the resolutions, we should implement them correctly. In order to build up a law-governed state, the tasks of making, propagandizing, and enforcing the laws must be carried out uniformly and strictly. Party committees at all levels should take the responsibility and enhance the leadership role in the tasks of widely disseminating and strictly enforcing the laws. Party cadres, public service personnel, and cadres of mass organizations should be exemplars in understanding and strictly observing the laws, thus being models for other people in living and working in accordance with the laws, as well as being a source of encouragement for all people to continue our renovation undertaking in the direction of socialism under the leadership of the party, and to strive for the achievements of a wealthy people, a strong country, and a progressive society.

Paper Praises Results of Assembly's Third Session

BK1907072793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 15 Jul 93

[From the press review program]

[Text] Under the title "It Is Necessary to Strictly Enforce Laws Once They Are Promulgated," today's NHAN DAN editorial says: It is necessary to strictly enforce laws once they are promulgated. Likewise, it is imperative to seriously implement resolutions once they are adopted.

Therefore, within the framework of efforts to build a law-governed state, it is necessary to adopt uniform and adequate measures to implement the legislative work program, as well as disseminate and enforce legal documents. The responsibility to guide the widespread dissemination and serious enforcement of legal documents rests with party committee echelons.

Party cadres and members, state employees, and cadres in charge of mass organizations must be the first to thoroughly understand and seriously implement legal documents, thus setting a good example for everyone to follow in the movement to live and work within the bounds of law, as well as to join hands in carrying on the cause of national renovation along the socialist path and under the party leadership. In this way, the goals of making the people rich and the nation powerful, as well as of building a civilized society, may come true.

Foreign Minister Concludes Visit to Laos

BK1807151393 Hanoi VNA in English 1430 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 18—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam arrived here today concluding a four-day official friendship visit to Laos at the invitation of his

Lao counterpart, Somsavat Lengsavat. While in Laos, Foreign Minister Cam was received by Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Central Committee [CC] of the Lao People's Revolutionary [LPR] Party, and Prime Minister Nouhak Phoumsavan, Politburo member of the Party CC, and president of Laos.

He also called at Souphanouvong and Phoumi Vongvichit, advisors to the LPR Party.

The two foreign ministers held talks.

The Vietnamese foreign minister laid a wreath at the monument to fallen fighters in Vientiane, and toured Luang Prabang Province.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam invited Minister Somsavat Lengsavat to visit Vietnam and the invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Nguyen Duc Binh Receives Lao Party School Delegation

BK1607140293 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Comrade Nguyen Duc Binh, Political Bureau member and secretary of the party Central Committee, received a high-level Lao party-state school led by Comrade Silua Bounkham, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and director of the school, on 13 July in Hanoi.

Also present at the reception were Comrade Khamphet Phengmeuang, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Vietnam; Comrade Do Van Phuong, deputy director of the Ho Chi Minh National Political Institute; and some other cadres of the institute and the party Central Committee International Department.

Phan Van Khai Attends Anticorruption Conference

BK1907075893 Hanoi VNA in English 0557 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 19—A conference to promote the anticorruption and antismuggling campaign was held here on July 16-18 with the participation of Vice Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and the chairmen of 24 provinces and cities and officials of 29 offices in the north. The conference reviewed the fight against corruption and smuggling in the past six months and noted that it had not been as effective as expected by the government. The conference worked out the tasks for this work in the last six months of this year which consist among other thing in overcoming parochialism and casualness continued renovation and direction in order to bridge the gaps of policies and mechanism, closer guidance in the treatment of violations, stepping up control and inspection work at various levels of the administration, and improvement of the professional standard of the enforcement mechanism.

Chairs Meeting on Corruption, Smuggling

BK1907092993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai held a meeting 16-17 July in Hanoi with the prime minister's authorization. He met with 24 provincial people's committee chairmen from North Vietnam and the heads of 29 central government offices and mass organizations. The meeting discussed measures for fighting corruption and smuggling to generate important improvement in the last six months of 1993, as outlined in the government program. Also attending were leading officials of the Public Security Force, Customs Service, Inspection Committee, and Market Management Teams from northern provinces.

The meeting held that after more than half a year of executing Government Decision No. 114, dated 21 November 1992, under regular government supervision and with the efforts of many sectors and levels, the fight against corruption and smuggling has achieved some results. Those results are only initial achievements, however, and they are not enough to create an important change as outlined by the government in its 1993 program. One of many factors limiting the results of the fight is the lack of full responsibility and determination by party committees, administration at all levels, law enforcement agencies, and market management teams.

The meeting set forth 10 major tasks for the last six months, aiming to put an end to the practice of localism and arbitrariness that may lead to violations of the law. It pledged to renovate and to perfect policies and mechanism to prevent loopholes. It worked out measures to intensify leadership in dealing with violations of the law, to consolidate control and inspection work to prevent further violations, to renew guidance methods in administration at all levels, encourage people to participate in the fight, and to improve the professional standards of law enforcement agencies.

Dao Duy Tung Visits Thai Binh Province

BK1907084993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] From 10-12 July, Comrade Dao Duy Tung, member of the Political Bureau and the party Central Committee Secretariat's standing body, paid a three-day working visit to survey the results of economic restructuring in provincial, district, and grass-roots traditional occupational and trade area villages; the application of agricultural cooperative managerial procedures based on the open-door policy; and the implementation of party-building work in the rural areas of Thai Binh Province.

Speaking at a meeting with members of the provincial party committee's standing body, Comrade Dao Duy Tung noted with pleasure that Thai Binh Province has made relatively steady cultural and socioeconomic progress. He reminded everyone of the need to conduct further research to devise economic and industrial development modalities that benefit the countryside and are suitable to the specific conditions of each locality and the requirements of the new situation.

Given the fact that Thai Binh has great potential and is undergoing new changes, everyone should think of ways to achieve a number of long-term goals so the province can integrate into the overall national economy. Officials in charge must go out of their way to learn from the experiences gained by grassroots establishments, devise their own development patterns, and formulate economic development plans suitable to the specific conditions of each locality.

Inventory results indicate that the material bases owned by the households and grass-roots establishments are still small in size compared with the actual requirements. In evaluating past achievements, one must take into account the fruit of the people's creative work.

Comrade Dao Duy Tung reminded Thai Binh Province of the need to sum up the experiences drawn from the rural industrialization program and attach importance to the various occupations and trade areas, especially from the lessons derived by the various traditional occupational and trade area villages. In this way, the province can turn out a large quantity of export products and implement the local labor distribution program.

Vo Van Kiet Holds Meeting on Developing Mountain District

BK1907094993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet recently held a working session with ministers, deputy ministers, chairmen, and vice chairmen of committees at the central level to discuss measures to launch a pilot socioeconomic development program for the mountain district of Muong Lai, Lai Chau Province.

Attending the working session were representatives of Lai Chau Provincial People's Committee and party and people's committees of Muong Lai District.

Addressing the session, the prime minister said: Muong Lai is a remote district with a vast area and sparse population, yet it plays an important role in national security and defense.

The prime minister stressed that it is necessary to develop communications and transportation to accelerate socioeconomic development of the district. As a result, efforts must be made to survey the local communications and transportation network, formulate plans to build new roads and upgrade old ones, and use an appropriate budget to repair promptly various sections of key roads. It is also necessary to build socioeconomic centers, promote marketing for agro-forestry products, set up cultural houses to attract the people to engage in healthy cultural activities, improve the daily life of ethnic minorities, and help resettle 3,000 ethnic minority households.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet also urged the local authorities to help households to develop a fruit-orchard economy; to create favorable conditions for increasing cultivated land; to zone off areas for subsidiary food crops; eliminate illegal logging; to fight against hunger and poverty; to improve education, cultural, and public health services; and to mobilize all available cadres—including the border defense force—to fulfill these tasks. Efforts must be made to provide education to all children, to contain malaria and goiter, to eliminate old and backward customs, to improve the quality of local schools, to promote vocational training, to train and foster a contingent of cadres to meet requirements in socioeconomic development, to organize refresher courses for political and professional cadres, to grant loans to people to engage in production to earn more income, and to improve their daily life, and to formulate a plan to train ethnic minority cadres on a long-term basis.

Concerning the implementation of this socioeconomic development program, the Prime Minister suggested that the State Planning Commission should formulate a general plan annually on the basis of seeking consultation from concerned ministries, sectors, and agencies. A specialized agency should be set up to help the government in providing guidance and supervision directly to the district level, while the province should assign cadres to follow up and review results of the program.

The prime minister assigned the Ministries of Communications and Transportation, Agriculture and Food Industry, Forestry, Construction, Education and Training, Culture, and Public Health as well as the State Planning Commission and Lai Chau Province to formulate plans to help Muong Lai District in a satisfactory way. Efforts should be made immediately to formulate supplementary plans to help the district fulfill its 1993 pressing tasks in accordance with the spirit of striving to develop the mountain region set by the party Central Committee Political Bureau's directive and the prime minister's decision.